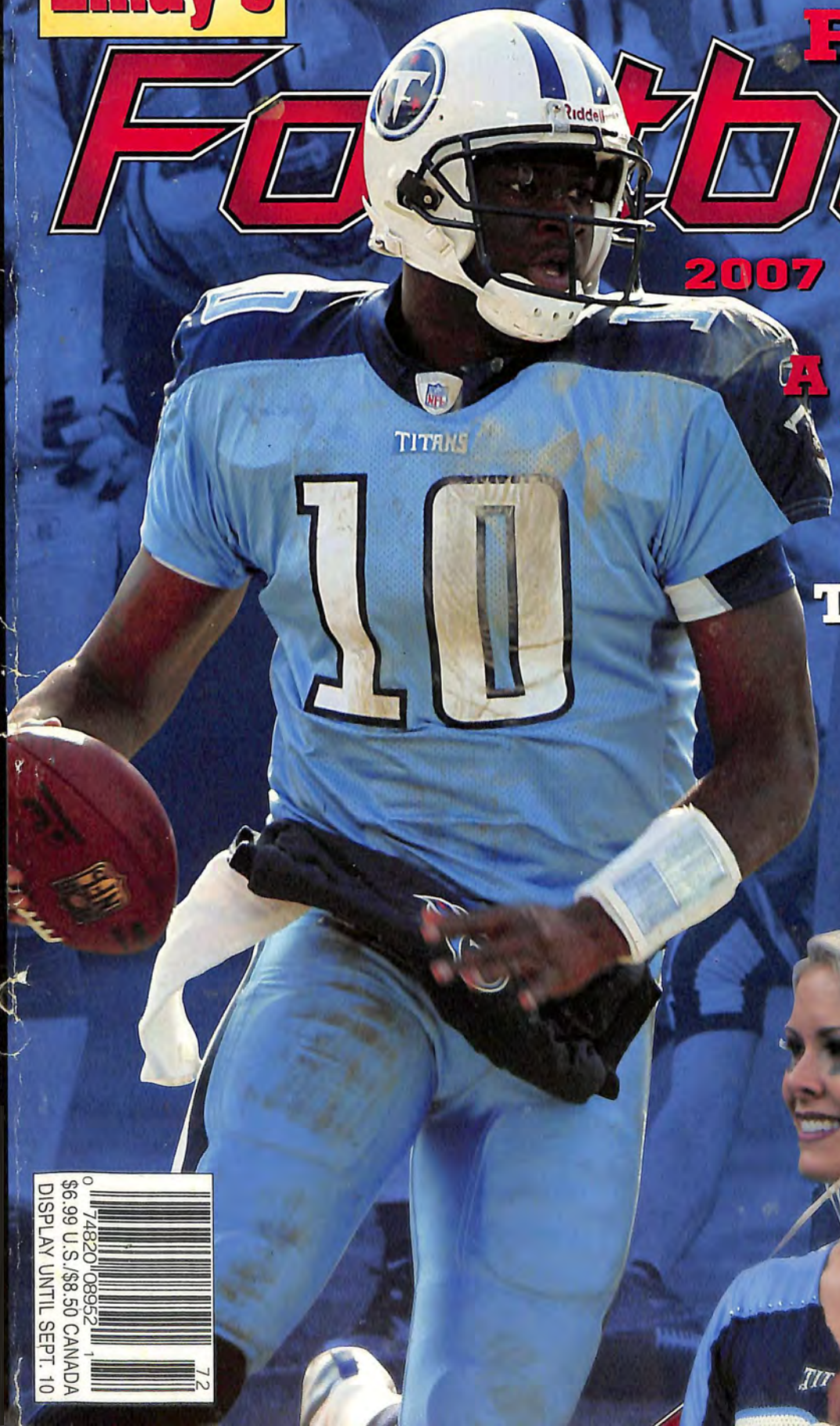
PLAYER RATINGS • ROSTERS WITH PLAYER COMMENTS • BIO ON EVERY PLAYER DRAFTED

Lindy's

AMERICA'S LEADING FOOTBALL AUTHORITY

PRO Football

2007 PREVIEW



A YOUNG QB WILL LEAD THEM

TOMLINSON A CUT ABOVE

FANTASY FOOTBALL

SIDELINES

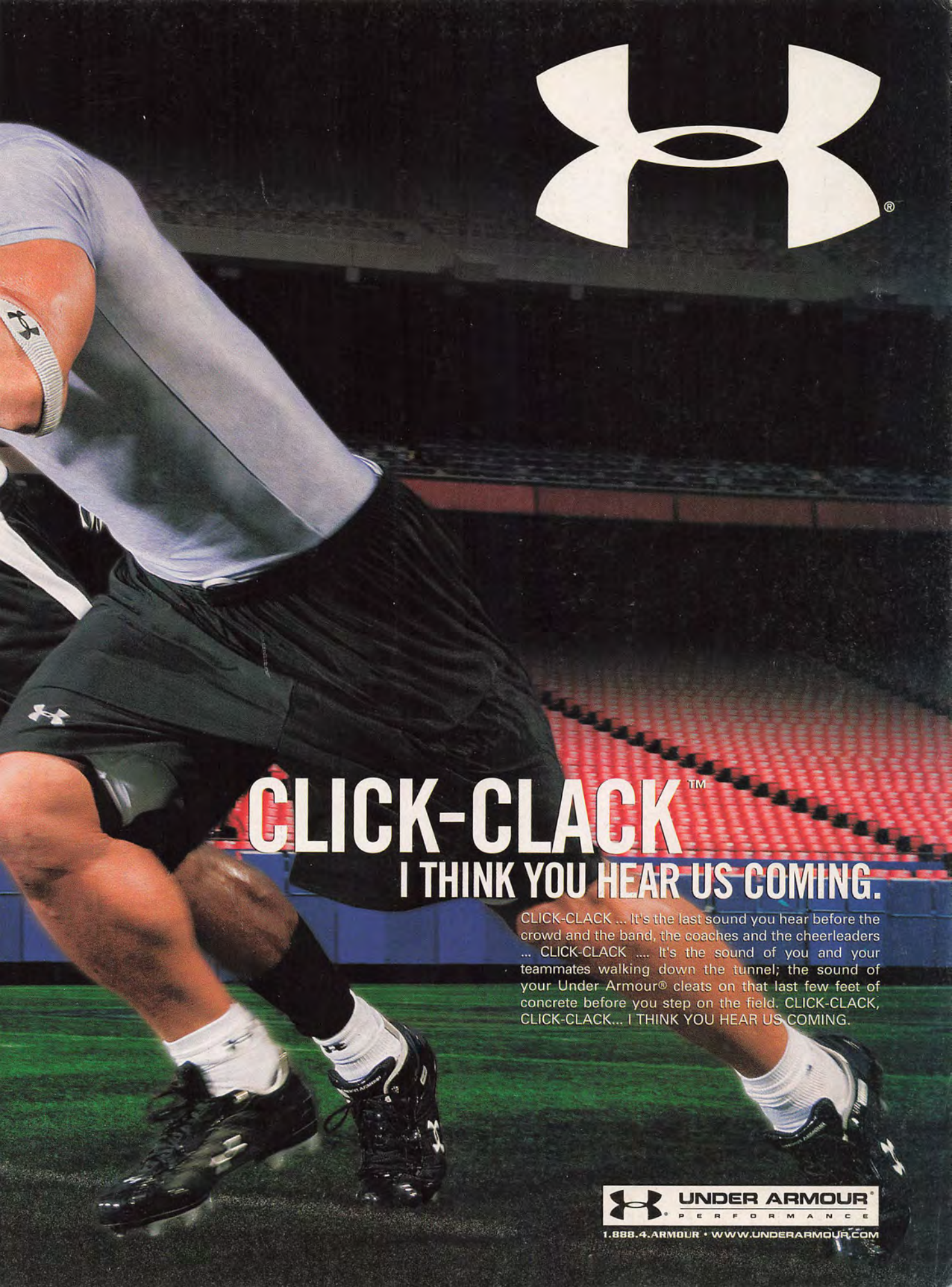
PAGE 101

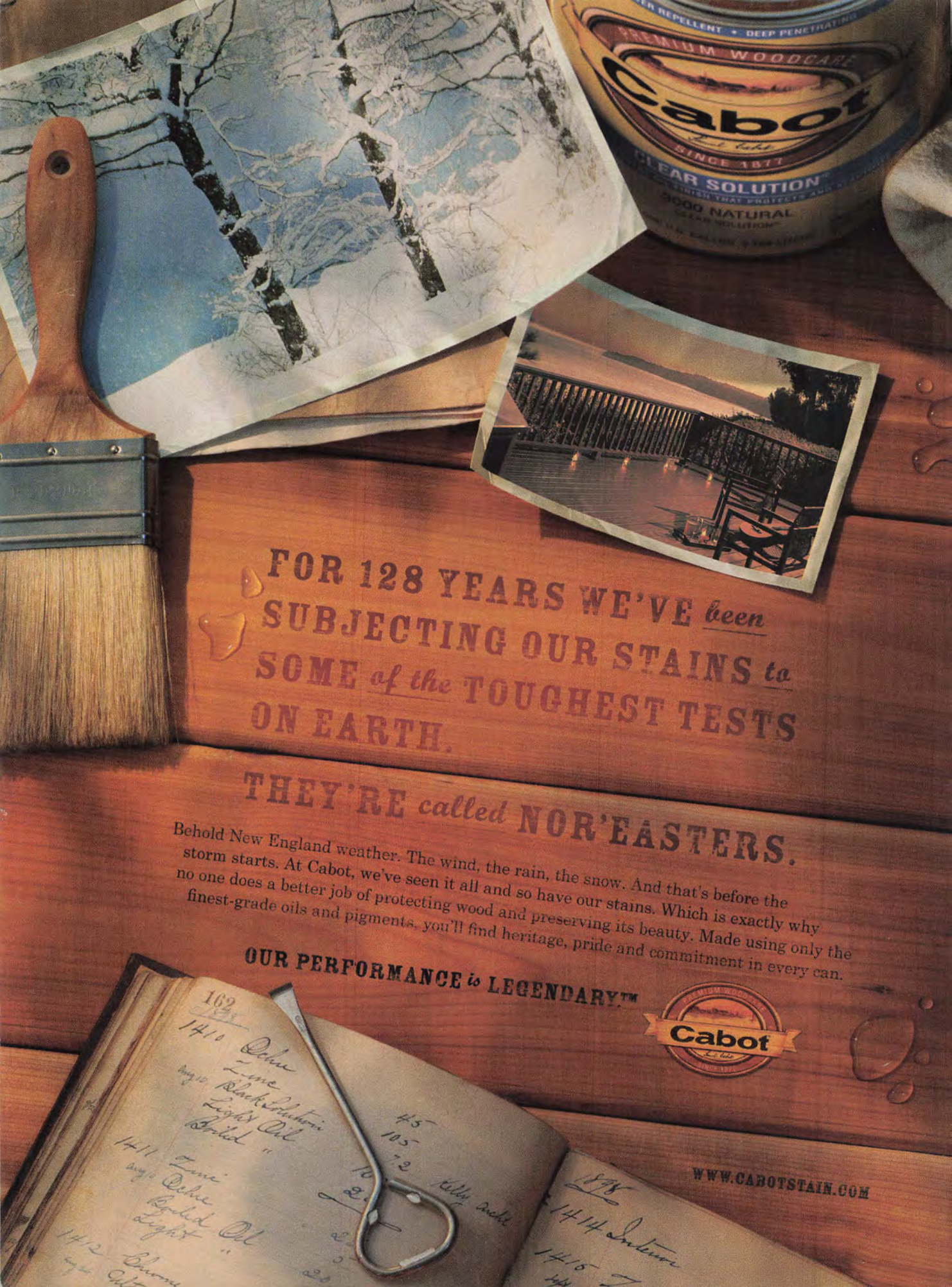
0 74820 08952 1 72
$6.99 U.S./$8.50 CANADA
DISPLAY UNTIL SEPT. 10

VOLUME 21 • LINDY'S PRO FOOTBALL • 2007

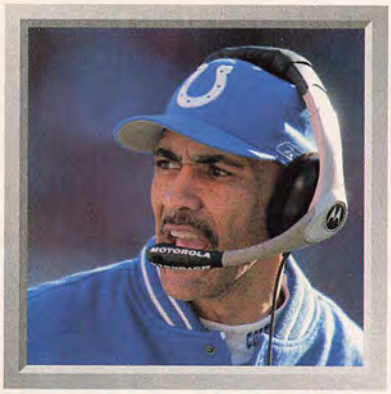
Pictured: UA Metal™ Speed Series Cleat, HeatGear® Full T, Sleeveless T, Microshort, UA Socks
Strength Short, UA Skull Wrap, UA Receiver Gloves. ©2007 UNDER ARMOUR® Performance.

heatgear® FOR WHEN IT'S HOT


CLICK-CLACK™
I THINK YOU HEAR US COMING.
CLICK-CLACK ... It's the last sound you hear before the crowd and the band, the coaches and the cheerleaders ... CLICK-CLACK .... It's the sound of you and your teammates walking down the tunnel; the sound of your Under Armour® cleats on that last few feet of concrete before you step on the field. CLICK-CLACK, CLICK-CLACK... I THINK YOU HEAR US COMING.
UNDER ARMOUR®
PERFORMANCE
1.888.4.ARMOUR • WWW.UNDERARMOUR.COM


Cabot
CLEAR SOLUTION
3000 NATURAL
FOR 128 YEARS WE'VE been SUBJECTING OUR STAINS to SOME of the TOUGHEST TESTS ON EARTH.
THEY'RE called NOR'EASTERS.
Behold New England weather. The wind, the rain, the snow. And that's before the storm starts. At Cabot, we've seen it all and so have our stains. Which is exactly why no one does a better job of protecting wood and preserving its beauty. Made using only the finest-grade oils and pigments, you'll find heritage, pride and commitment in every can.
OUR PERFORMANCE is LEGENDARY™
Cabot
WWW.CABOTSTAIN.COM

CONTENTS | 2007



CLIMBING THE MOUNT
begins on page 8

THE KILLER MISCUE
begins on page 12

ONE OF THE GREATEST
begins on page 16

THE LEAGUE

Around the NFC East 20
Around the NFC North 38
Around the NFC South 56
Around the NFC West 74
by Don Pierson

Scoping the NFL 92
Character, Coaches, Contracts
by Howard Balzer

The NFL's Best 108
Lindy's Rates the Players and Units

Around the AFC East 126
Around the AFC North 144
Around the AFC South 162
Around the AFC West 180
by Tony Grossi

Sidelines 101

A Look Back 216

FEATURES

Still Aiming Higher 8
NFL Makes Progress in Minority Hiring
by Mike Beacom

FALSE START! 12
Few Things Can Change a Game More
by Alan Ross

Doing It the Right Way 16
Tomlinson Follows Example of Sweetness
by Jay Paris

It's a Wonderful Life 98
Cardinals Great Defensive Back Leads 2007 Hall of Fame Class
by Alan Ross

Keeping the Faith 205
Two Tragedies Pull Broncos Together
by Frank Schwab

SIX MORE ALL-TIMERS ENTER THE HALL
begins on page 98

FYI

The 2007 NFL Draft 112
Who Did Well ... And Who Didn't
by Barry Wilner

A Look Ahead 122
Preview to the 2008 NFL Draft
by John Hadley

Your Fantasy Football Primer 198
From Picks to Stats
by Jim Donaldson

Homeless Player Roster 121

NFL Schedules 206

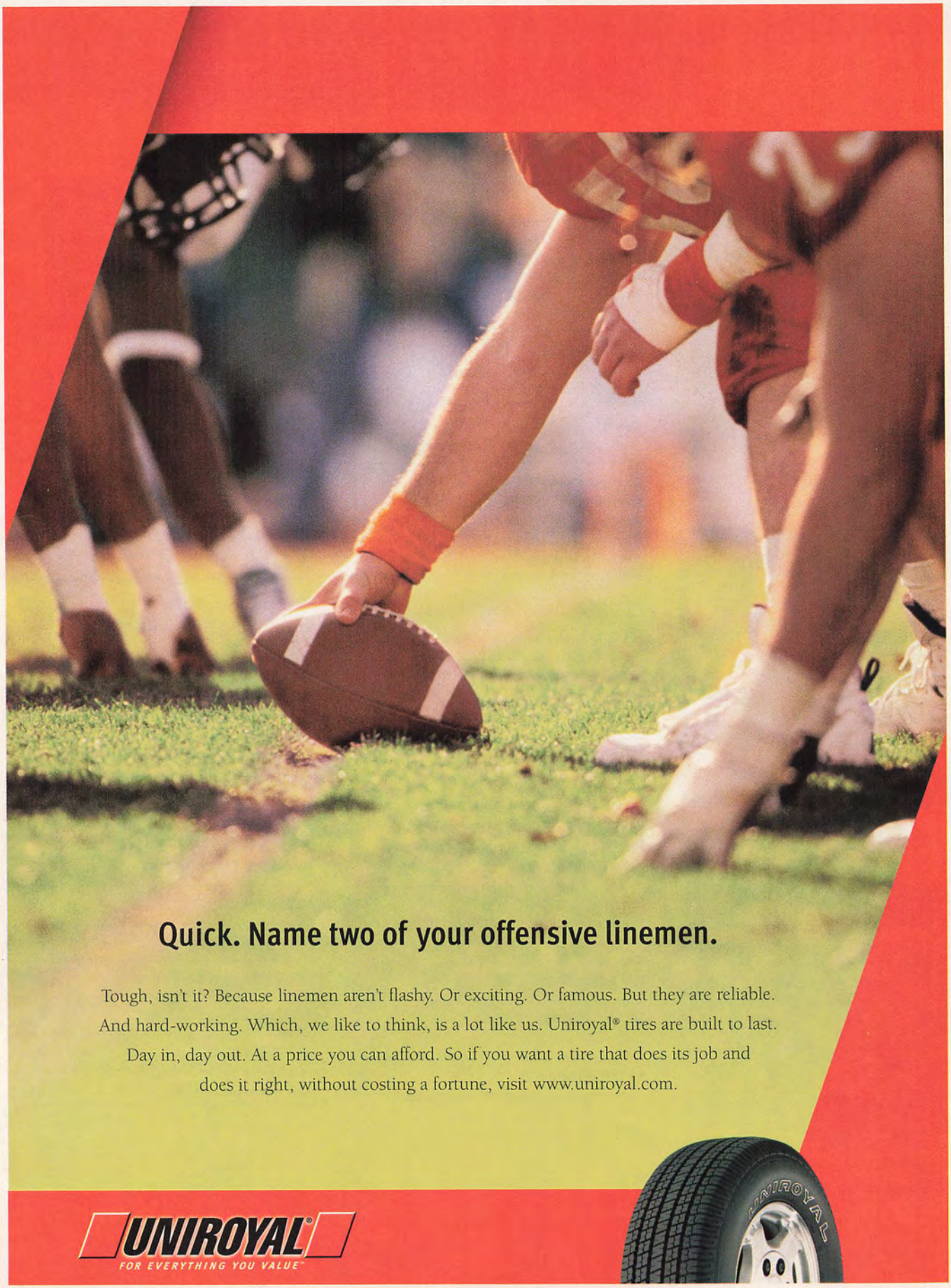
Rating the Teams 209

NFC Individual Statistics 210

AFC Individual Statistics 212

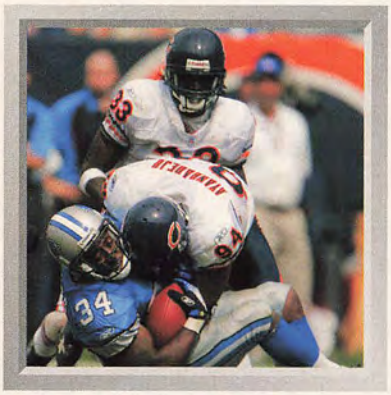
NFC Team Statistics 214

AFC Team Statistics 215

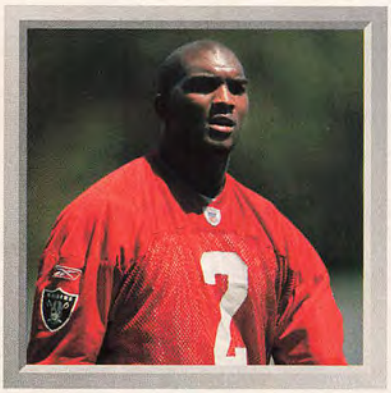

Quick. Name two of your offensive linemen.
Tough, isn't it? Because linemen aren't flashy. Or exciting. Or famous. But they are reliable. And hard-working. Which, we like to think, is a lot like us. Uniroyal® tires are built to last. Day in, day out. At a price you can afford. So if you want a tire that does its job and does it right, without costing a fortune, visit www.uniroyal.com.
UNIROYAL®
FOR EVERYTHING YOU VALUE™
UNIROYAL

CONTENTS | 2007

TEAM STORIES
begin on page 22



SCOPING THE NFL
begins on page 92



2007 DRAFT REVIEW
begins on page 112

THE TEAMS

NFC East
Dallas 22
NY Giants 26
Philadelphia 30
Washington 34

NFC North
Chicago 40
Detroit 44
Green Bay 48
Minnesota 52

NFC South
Atlanta 58
Carolina 62
New Orleans 66
Tampa Bay 70

NFC West
Arizona 76
St. Louis 80
San Francisco 84
Seattle 88

AFC East
Buffalo 128
Miami 132
New England 136
NY Jets 140

AFC North
Baltimore 146
Cincinnati 150
Cleveland 154
Pittsburgh 158

AFC South
Houston 164
Indianapolis 168
Jacksonville 172
Tennessee 176

AFC West
Denver 182
Kansas City 186
Oakland 190
San Diego 194

SIDELINES

begins on page 101

Letter from the Publisher

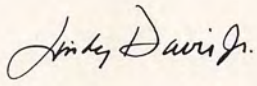
Welcome to the 21st edition of *Lindy's Pro Football. Lindy's* has always strived to put out the most complete annual on the market. With that objective in mind, we added a games played/games started on all players that teams lost over the off-season.

Everything else is still pretty much in place. The unmatched rosters, incredibly deep draft report, the players/team ratings and more. Jim Donaldson does his usual fine job with his fantasy overview beginning on page 198. For the serious fantasy fan, look for *Lindy's Fantasy Football* at newsstands beginning June 26.

My brother Mike passed away suddenly this past November, while my father passed away in 2003. I would like to dedicate this issue to them. My father believed in me when only a dad could and my oldest brother passed on his love and knowledge of sports to his little brother.

Have a great season. As always,your comments and suggestions are appreciated.

Sincerely,



Lindy Davis
Publisher

Note: All roster and player movements are accurate as of May 12. Any roster changes after that date will not be reflected in the annual. However, you can go to *Lindy's* Web site (listed below) for weekly roster changes.

D.M.D. Publications, Inc.
2100 Centennial Drive, Suite 100
Birmingham AL 35216
P: 205-871-1182 • F: 205-871-1184
E-mail: *lindy@lindyssports.com*
www.lindyssports.com

© 2007 D.M.D. Publications, Inc.
All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

Audit Bureau of Circulations

Publisher
J. Lindy Davis, Jr.

Senior Editor
Howard Balzer

Production Manager
Grant Shingleton

Photo Editor
R.D. Moore

Creative
Tracey Fagan, Norbert Feliciano, Ginny O'Neill, Tim Williams

Editorial/Production Assistants
Ben Cook, Grace Gloss, John Krusinski, Matt Lowe, Kathy Rombough, Lyn Scarbrough

Advertising/Marketing
Hayley Walters • Birmingham
205-871-1182

Lyn Scarbrough • Birmingham
205-437-9483

Newsstand
John Willett
Ralph Perricelli
Philip Willett

Office Manager
Kathy Rombough

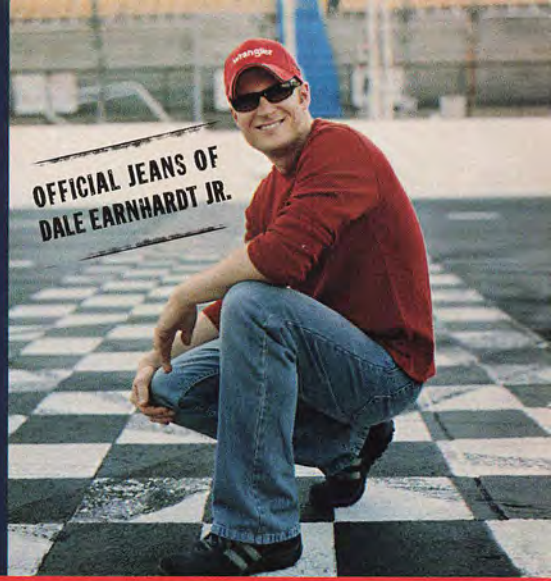
Orders/Shipping
Grace Gloss

Accounting
Barry Jacobs • Paige Tanner

Contributing Writers
Mike Beacom, Ed Bouchette, Nicholas Cotsonika, Mark Cumutte, Rick Dean, Vinny DiTrani, Paul Domowitch, Jim Donaldson, Pete Dougherty, David Elfin, Scott Fowler, Mark Gaughan, Tony Grossi, John Hadley, Jamison Hensley, Clarence E. Hill Jr., Tom James, Paul Kuharsky, Bob LeGere, Matt Maiocco, Megan Manfull, Alex Marvez, Jerry McDonald, Sheldon Mickles, Jay Paris, Don Pierson, Alan Ross, Mike Sando, Jeff Schudel, Frank Schwab, Lee Shappell, Katherine Smith, Vito Stellino, Barry Wilner, Steve Wyche, Peter Zellen, Judd Zulgad

Contributing Photographers
Staff Photographers from:
Getty Images
Icon SMI
SportPics
and
Tomasso DeRosa, Paul Fong, Steve Franz, Daniel Gluskoter, Kirby Lee, R.D. Moore, John Pyle, Brian Spurlock, Jim Stouffer,

Wrangler®
JEANS Co™
ESTABLISHED 1947



NEW FITS. NEW COMFORT. NEW STYLES.

Wrangler®

RELAXED BOOT FIT

RELAXED STRAIGHT LEG

LOOSE FIT

A NEW GENERATION OF WRANGLER

call 1-888-784-8571 for a store near you or visit www.wrangler.com

We Fit Your Life. © 2007 VF Jeanswear, Inc.
The Dale Earnhardt, Inc. (DEI) trust and other Dale Earnhardt-related marks and images (including driver images) are trademarks, copyrighted works and intellectual property of DEI and are being used by Wrangler Apparel Corp. under authority of DEI

Photo by Kirby Lee

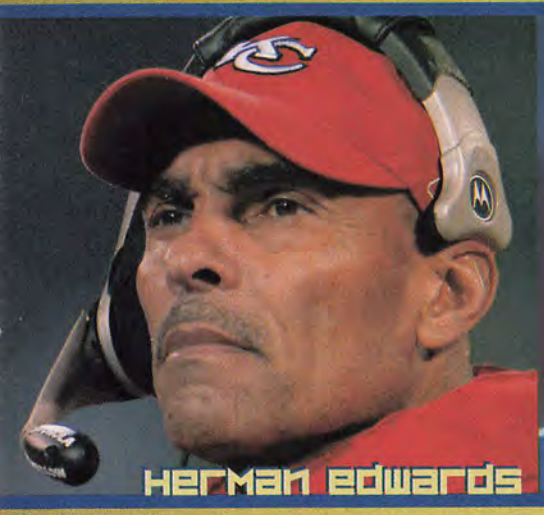


Photo by Kirby Lee

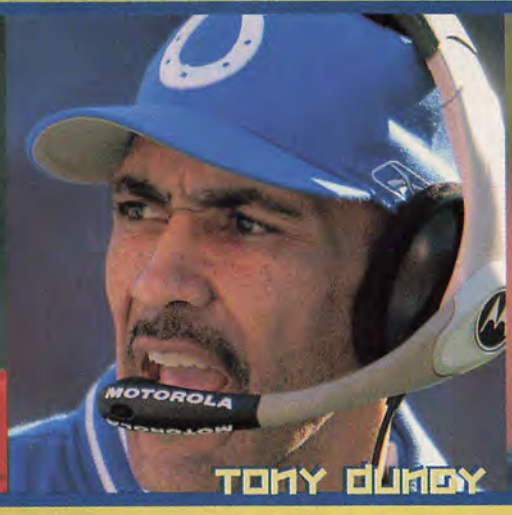
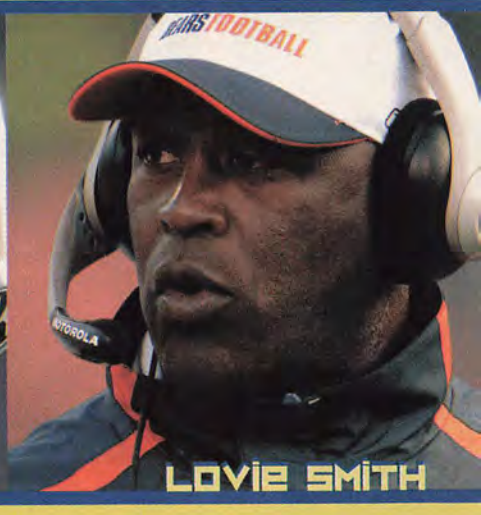


Photo by Kirby Lee



MORE MOUNTAINS TO CLIMB

BY MIKE BEACOM

With progress all around, the 'thinking-man's portion of pro football is still lacking in cultural diversity

The issue of skin color was inescapable during the week leading up to Super Bowl XLI.

Forget Colts quarterback Peyton Manning getting his long awaited crack at the title, or the controversy that encompassed troubled Bears defensive lineman Tank Johnson. All fans and reporters could talk about was the Tony & Lovie Show, the new era in cultural diversity among the National Football League's coaching ranks.

The league's far-reaching public relations machine was well within its right to promote the historic occurrence. Only a few years after attorneys Cyrus Mehri and Johnnie Cochran had presented a 78-page report on the matter, the NFL had exceeded expectations to diversify its offices from top to bottom.

"I've seen more of an intentionality to want to be more diverse," said Tennessee Titans running backs coach Sherman Smith, who was promoted this off-season to assistant head coach. "The makeup of our league and society demands it be that way."

With Dungy and Smith coaching on the sport's biggest stage, and minorities occupying a record number of positions, it would have been easy for the league to label the matter "mission accomplished" and move on. But those close to the issue know there is much more work to be done.

Long heralded as a league of forward thinking and sound economic standing, the underbelly of the NFL is still very much contaminated with sometimes slow-to-progress policy.

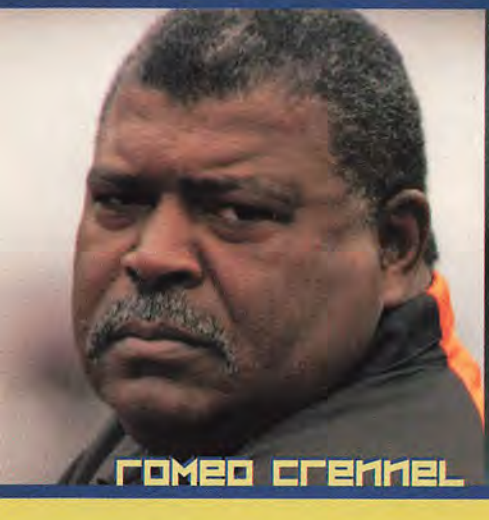
Case in point is the offensive side of the football, where the league and the Fritz Pollard Alliance (FPA) have yet to make much ground on two key positions essential to the development of each organization — offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Entering the 2007 season only four minority coaches occupy those positions (two of each), whereas last season the league employed 30 running backs coaches, nearly as many wide receivers coaches and a much larger number of positional coaches on the defensive side of the football.

Is the lack of progress in those positions racial prejudice or a glitch in the league's method for encouraging more minority hirings? The answer is not so clear, and requires a look at the history behind the league's current policy.

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE PROGRESS

Mehri has championed the issue. After making a name for himself in several landmark civil rights cases involving corporate America, Mehri was reading the sports page at his kitchen table one spring morning in 2002 when he decided he wanted to do something to encourage cultural change in the NFL. Mehri recruited Dr. Janice Madden from the University of Pennsylvania to help him conduct a labor economist study and

Photo by Daniel Gluskoter



ROMEO CRENNEL

Photo by: Kirby Lee

SHERMAN SMITH

"I've seen more of an intentionality to want to be more diverse," said Tennessee Titans running backs coach Sherman Smith, who was promoted this off-season to assistant head coach. "The makeup of our league and society demands it be that way."

hired interns to build a database comparing won-loss records of minority coaches vs. their white counterparts.

"I knew in my heart that if you studied it, the black head coaches did extremely well when given opportunities," said Mehri. "So the question was, why weren't they being given more opportunities?"

He soon approached Cochran, who he had worked with previously on several civil lawsuits.

"I said, 'Johnnie, you want to be part of this thing?' and he just lit up," recalled Mehri.

The report, entitled, "Black Coaches in the National Football League: Superior Performance, Inferior Opportunities," made some startling discoveries. For example, first-year black coaches averaged 2.7 more wins than the white coaches in their first season, and in their final season terminated black coaches had won an average of 1.3 more games than terminated white coaches. The report was well received and in time, it helped to achieve in only a matter of years what the league could not accomplish in roughly a decade.

"Commissioner (Paul) Tagliabue had made this a signature issue, yet they weren't making much progress," says Mehri. "It was like watching a football team going three-and-out and coming off the field, getting the ball back and going three-and-out again. They just weren't moving the ball down the field."

Within a month of the report's release, Tagliabue formed a special committee to address diversity issues. In March 2003, the FPA was created and it's now grown into a year-round operation that requires a full staff. Every December, the FPA submits a list of qualified minority candidates to the league and each of the 32 franchises as a precursor to the hiring period.

That same year, the NFL penned the Rooney Rule, requiring teams to interview at least one minority candidate for a head coaching vacancy. The rule gained credibility later in 2003 when Detroit was fined $200,000 for failing to follow its guidelines when they hired Steve Mariucci.

TWO POSITIONS STILL BEHIND THE CURVE

The plan was solid, and in time more candidates would mean more hires. And for the most part that theory has held true. As Mehri pointed out, not only have more minority coaches been given opportunities around the league, but when he and Cochran first presented their report, Baltimore's Ozzie Newsome was the only minority in charge of a team's personnel decisions. This offseason Jerry Reese helped increase that number to six when he replaced Ernie Accorsi as the New York Giants' senior vice president and general manager.

But despite all of the growth, offensive coordinators and quarterbacks coaches are trailing the progress made in other areas.

"The barriers were easier to break, for some reason, on the defensive side than on the offensive side," said Mehri. "I think the message is the same kind of bias that led to the position segregation, the kind of bias that 'blacks can't be in thinking positions.'

"Step by step over 60 years you have people like John Wooten break down the barrier of being the messenger guard, a thinking position coming in and playing for Paul Brown. You have Willie Lanier breaking down the barriers of playing middle linebacker, another so-called thinking position. James Harris and Warren Moon and Doug Williams breaking down the barrier of playing quarterback. Why it took so long to do it at quarterback is why it's taken so long at offensive coordinator.

"Now, what does that mean?" asked Mehri. "That really great people like Jimmy Raye, Ray Sherman and Sherman Lewis had steeper mountains to climb."

Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian is a member of a working group of executives that answers to the league's Workplace Diversity Committee made up of several owners. For Polian, the formula for increasing the number of hires is simple: increase the pool of candidates.

"What the Rooney Rule is designed to do is make sure that people in the pipeline get noticed," said Polian. "What needs to happen is that more and more minority offensive coaches need to come into the pipeline. That's where it all starts."

Don't just take Polian at his word; he leads by example. The Colts have long been a good steward of the league's progressive hiring objectives. Not only did Indianapolis give Dungy a head coaching position five years ago, but in 2006 it was the only franchise in the league to employ an African-American quarterbacks coach (Jim Caldwell).

NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations Ray Anderson, a former member of the working group while a member of the Atlanta Falcons front office, believes awareness is the best solution.

"You draw attention to the problem by putting a bright light on it," said Anderson. "What (the league) is trying to do now, particularly with the lacking numbers in those positions, is open people's eyes and educate."

"Tony (Dungy) said it very eloquently and, in my opinion, best," said Polian. "He hopes the day will come when it's just a question of being a coach, not an African-American coach or a white coach, but just a coach."

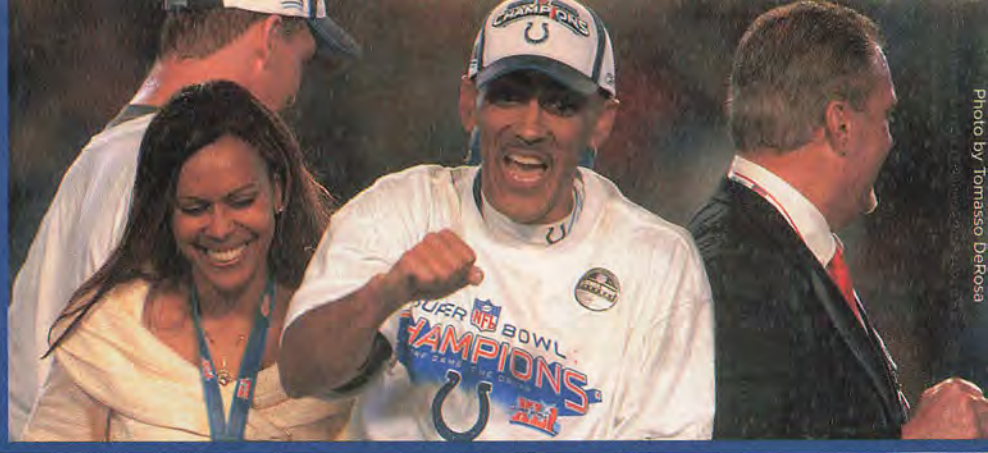


Photo by Tomasso DeRosa

PHOTO RIGHT: Tony Dungy celebrates with his team after beating the Bears 29-17 at Super Bowl XLI in Miami, FL.

OBSTACLES EXIST

One thing could work against Polian's common-sense approach to addressing the issue — if coaches are not entering certain pipelines, then the pool never grows, and the desired goals of racial equality, as set by the league and FPA, are never realized.

The NCAA, for example, can be a training ground for future NFL position coaches by way of the league's coaching internship program, an important cog in the systematic-approach to advancing diversity. But the NCAA itself only employs a handful of African-American head coaches despite having 119 Division 1A football programs. So, in turn, there are fewer minority coaches to offer those internships to than the averages suggest there should be, and even fewer on offense. In April, representatives of the FPA met with NCAA President Myles Brand to discuss the issue.

"What I can tell you is that the NCAA being a wasteland is a drag on the progress being made by the NFL. We don't have a pipeline coming up through there, more like a drain," said Mehri. "We can only influence them to the extent that we can inspire them with logic and information and get them to see the benefit of (following the NFL's lead)."

Anderson also endorses a lead-by-example approach to influencing the NCAA, and he pointed out that the league's decision to address the hiring issue head on "has not only been the right thing to do, but it's flat out good business to have diverse leadership."

Another potential stumbling block to increasing the number of minority offensive coordinators and quarterbacks coaches is a league rule stating that teams can deny a coach or scout under contract the opportunity to interview for a position with another club unless it is for the title of head coach or general manager. Wooten said such a rule could prevent someone like Mike Johnson — a long-time quarterbacks coach who was let go by Atlanta in January of 2006 and subsequently accepted a wide receiver coaching position in Baltimore — from working his way up the ladder. In theory, if Baltimore were to choose not to allow him to interview elsewhere, Johnson's only chance at earning another quarterbacks coaching position or ascending to the role of offensive coordinator would be in Baltimore.

"This is happening," said Wooten, the chairman of the FPA. "Now, we understand why it is being done. You want to keep good people. But at the same time you have to ask, 'What is fair to a guy who has been working for you?' "

The greatest obstacle the FPA and pro football might need to overcome, however, is time. The quarterback position, for example, was the last to integrate. And long after Doug Williams won a Super Bowl for the Washington Redskins, African-American quarterbacks were labeled as such. Now that is starting to change.

"If you notice now they don't talk about 'black quarterbacks,' " said Wooten, who points out that incoming quarterback prospects JaMarcus Russell, Troy Smith and Chris Leak were judged on their merits more than their color. "(Today) they simply say quarterback, and that's the way it should be."

But with history just now starting to correct itself on the playing field, it may take many years for today's second- and third-string quarterbacks (a popular makeup of a future quarterbacks coach or offensive mentor) to grow into coaching prospects.

PLENTY TO BE DONE YET

Mehri offers a historical analogy.

"People like Bill Willis and Marion Motley were like the guys that showed up on Omaha Beach. They literally were the first ones to start to deal with the integration issue," said Mehri. "Super Bowl XLI was like walking into Paris with everybody wildly in support of citizenry. But that doesn't mean there aren't pockets out there that need to be addressed. The celebratory January and February that we had does not mean that the job is all done, because it's not all done. The fact is the offensive side is a slower area for progress."

Said Wooten, "There is so much to be done. Dr. King said, and I'm paraphrasing, that a man is chosen by the character and the content rather than the good ol' boy network, and that is still going on in this league. That's why the FPA has got to keep moving at it the way we are."

All of the men agree that the end goal is a color-blind league.

"Tony (Dungy) said it very eloquently and, in my opinion, best," said Polian. "He hopes the day will come when it's just a question of being a coach, not an African-American coach or a white coach, but just a coach."

Supporters of the Rooney Rule agree that it must be viewed as an aid, and not a solution toward placing more qualified candidates in top offensive positions and reaching that ultimate goal.

Said Smith, "It's a hard issue. You can't make it a law. To be honest, if I were an owner I wouldn't want someone telling me who to hire. I want the best guy. But the problem is that the hearts of certain owners don't work that way. They don't necessarily want the best guy, they want a certain kind of guy."

The solution to more diversity in key offensive positions might have nothing to do with rules and entities outside of the NFL's grasp, said Smith.

"The Rooney Rule is good, but all it can do is get you an interview. It doesn't get you a job. It's the men who need to change." ■

Lindy's 6 To Watch

The number of minorities occupying offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coaching positions might be low, but it isn't due to a shortage of qualified candidates.

During the first week in March, the Chicago Bears hired Pep Hamilton to be the team's quarterbacks coach. In San Francisco last season, while serving as the assistant quarterbacks coach, Hamilton was credited with helping to mold former No. 1 overall draft choice Alex Smith. Now, he will be given the difficult task of further developing Rex Grossman, one of the league's most scrutinized players in 2006.

A former quarterback at Howard University, Hamilton is one of only two African-American quarterbacks coaches at the pro level. After spending five years coaching the quarterbacks at Howard, Hamilton spent three years as a league intern before getting his first full-time NFL job in 2003 with the New York Jets organization. There he served under then-head coach Herman Edwards.

"Pep Hamilton is a guy who I took a great interest in when I was in New York," said Edwards. "Pep learned a lot from Paul (Hackett) and then in San Francisco under Norv Turner. (He) is well equipped to be a quarterbacks coach; there is no doubt in my mind. I'm just glad that he is getting an opportunity with Lovie Smith."

Edwards has molded many fine coaches through the years, but he believes the hiring of Hamilton is an important sign for minority coaches on the offensive side of the football.

"When you think about some of the quarterbacks coaches in the past; Jimmy Raye was obviously a coordinator as was Sherm (Lewis)," said Edwards, "so you have a few, but you really didn't have that many minority guys as quarterbacks coaches.

"It's just a matter of more opportunities for guys to do a good job and then all of a sudden you can be a quarterbacks coach."

This off-season, the San Diego Chargers and Atlanta Falcons each hired a minority candidate to take over the offensive side of the football. The Chargers promoted running backs coach Clarence Shelmon, whose 16 years of prior coaching experience made him an attractive candidate, while Atlanta turned to Hue Jackson, a one-time offensive coordinator in Washington before overseeing the Bengals' wide receiving corps the past three seasons.

In addition to those two coaches and Hamilton, the league also has three minority coaches assuming the duties of assistant head coach in addition to managing an offensive position: Jim Caldwell in Indianapolis (quarterbacks), Jim Skipper in Carolina (running backs), and Sherman Smith in Tennessee (running backs). All five candidates are worthy of moving up the ladder in the near future.

Here are five other offensive coaches who deserve a closer look for openings in the near future:

MIKE JOHNSON, wide receivers coach, Baltimore Ravens

After spending four years in Atlanta, three as Michael Vick's position coach, Johnson's contract was not renewed following the 2005 season. The Ravens snapped him up and he made an immediate impact on what had long been considered one of pro football's most dismal passing games. Prior to joining Atlanta, Johnson spent time as the quarterbacks coach for the Chargers and Oregon State.

JAMES LOFTON, wide receivers coach, San Diego Chargers

One of the premier wide receivers of his era, Lofton has slowly risen in the coaching ranks. After leaving broadcasting in 2001, Lofton joined the Chargers' organization where he's been credited with getting the most out of a limited cast. Last December, the soft-spoken Hall of Famer was a finalist for the head coaching job at his alma mater, Stanford, and at one point in January was considered a possible frontrunner for the Raiders' head coaching vacancy.

JIMMY RAYE, running backs coach, New York Jets

Raye is the prototypical example of a minority coach who has been somehow lost in the process. Raye is a superb coach, no one questions that, but at 61 years of age his window for opportunity is closing. Raye has spent 11 of his 30 years in the league serving as an offensive coordinator, but the former standout quarterback at Michigan State has never been given a shot at a head coaching vacancy.

RAY SHERMAN, wide receivers coach, Dallas Cowboys

Few offensive candidates are as seasoned as Sherman, who has coached running backs, quarterbacks and wide receivers. Three times he has held the role of offensive coordinator, but he has never been given more than one year to work with. Sherman found a new home this off-season in Dallas where he will serve as the wide receivers coach on Wade Phillips' staff.

MATT SIMON, running back coach, San Diego Chargers

After having spent 28 years coaching at the collegiate level (four as the head coach at North Texas), Simon took full advantage of a coaching internship with Denver in 1998 to land a job as the Baltimore Ravens running backs coach the following year. Under his tutelage, the Ravens owned one of the most successful ground games in the league. This season will be Simon's first with San Diego.

— Mike Beacom

Illustration by Tim Williams

BY ALAN ROSS

FALSE START! THE KILLER MISCUE

The clock in the giant Superdome glares 1:56. The 2006 NFC Divisional Playoff match between New Orleans and Philadelphia is winding down in climactic fashion, as the Saints try desperately to hold onto a 27–24 lead. The Eagles, down to possibly their last play, face 4th-and-10 at their own 44. Quarterback Jeff Garcia, in the shotgun, heaves a forced throw downfield that is … *caught* by rookie wide receiver Hank Baskett on the Saints 36-yard line. With plenty of time still remaining, Philly is now within field-goal range to tie the game.

Suddenly, a partisan roar erupts around the cavernous Louisiana venue. A flag lies on the field. No. 71, Philadelphia guard Scott Young, has moved slightly before the snap. The gain is nullified; the down to be replayed. Now 4th-and-15, the Eagles elect, controversially, to punt. Game over, as New Orleans runs out the clock.

"It was a sore subject, and still kind of eats at me," admits Young, then in just his second year with Philadelphia. "I pretty much just kind of kept to myself about it. It was kind of unreal how it happened. I'd gone through the whole play and didn't even realize it was on me. They let it run. To be honest with you, I still won't look at the play. But I'm a firm believer in this: You can't come up with enough excuses to justify a penalty. That's just something you can't do. That's the reason for the penalty."

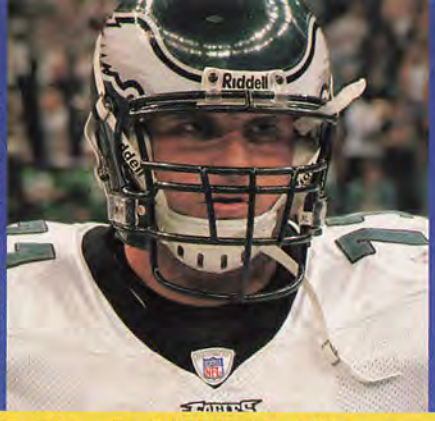


Photo by Drew Hallowell/Getty Images

Scott Young: "I really believe that it's part of the game. It's gonna happen from time to time. You can't go to the line being hesitant and say, like, 'I've gotta be slow off the ball,' because you can't be a second off the ball, the defensive linemen in the NFL are too good. You've gotta be right on time."

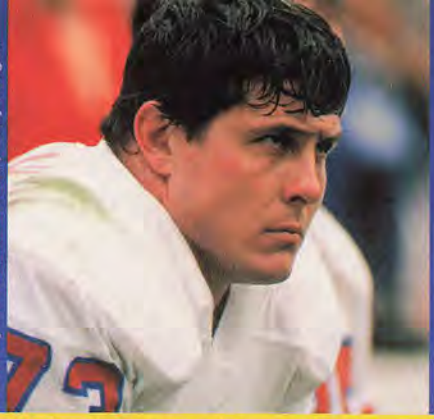


Photo by Andrew D. Bernstein/Getty Images

John Hannah: "For me, it was the tenseness of the moment. You're trying to get off, and one of the keys of blocking anybody is to get off quicker than the other guy. You're waiting with bated breath, so to speak, on that sound, so that you're firing off as quick as you possibly can to get into the defensive lineman."

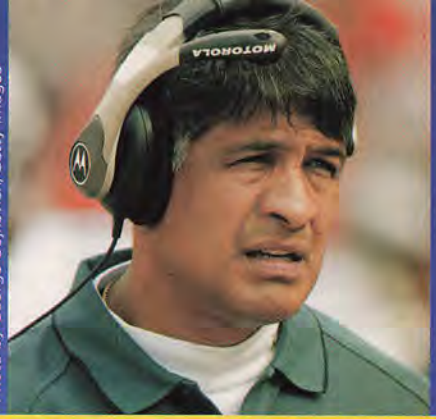


Photo by George Gojkovich/Getty Images

Juan Castillo: "It's anticipation. They're trying to get a jump. They're trying to get an advantage on the defensive guy. With one of my players, a big part of his game is the anticipation of the snap count. So, sometimes, if the quarterback holds the count or if he changes his cadence at all, the lineman is going to jump."

In Young's defense, elements were already at work leading up to the infamous play. That Young was even in the game was due to starter and Pro Bowler Shawn Andrews' earlier departure with an injury. Under the critical conditions facing the Eagles on that fourth-down play, the ball was hiked on a silent count, meaning the players waited for the snap of the ball before initiating movement rather than taking the usual audio cues off the quarterback's barked signals — methodology utilized under trying noise conditions, especially in domed stadiums on the road. Most important in the equation, though, is the fact that Young, as a backup, hadn't received any reps working with the silent count the week before in practice. Finally, add in the deafening environment — a passionate crowd away from home at a colossal indoor stadium that reverberates like the Grand Canyon — and you have the raw materials for Young's jump.

"I really believe that it's part of the game," he says. "It's gonna happen from time to time. You can't go to the line being hesitant and say, like, 'I've gotta be slow off the ball,' because you can't be a second off the ball, the defensive linemen in the NFL are too good. You've gotta be right on time. And the only way you can do that is by practice, repetition, and making it as natural as possible to where you don't even think. Not too many linemen make it through a season without a false start or two or three or four. There are several people that I watched this year (2006) that had two in a row in a game, or two or three in a half."

Indeed. Only the week before that divisional playoff loss to the Saints, the shoe was on the other foot. In an NFC wild-card game against New York, Philadelphia benefited from five Giants false starts, three of them by starting guard David Diehl, including back-to-back penalties by Diehl and New York's other guard, Chris Snee, midway through the final quarter, with the Giants down by a touchdown.

If we didn't know better, we'd swear the false start is an infectious virus, with visiting teams more susceptible to contamination. There's little argument that this penalty is far and away the most exasperating infraction in football, for everyone — the guilty player, his teammates, the coaches on the sideline and the fans. To understand what's behind this head-shaking, negative five-yarder, the basic question must be asked: Why?

John Hannah, a Pro Football Hall of Famer who trained Scott Young for several days after the scouting combine in 2005, explains, "For me, it was the tenseness of the moment. You're trying to get off, and one of the keys of blocking anybody is to get off quicker than the other guy. You're waiting with bated breath, so to speak, on that sound, so that you're firing off as quick as you possibly can to get into the defensive lineman, to get under him, before he can get into you."

At times the infraction is the deadliest drive-killer in the NFL. While viewers may spontaneously erupt at the perpetrator of a false start, generally raining a bevy of negative insults onto the guilty party, the moving violation is far from a lineman's mind as he approaches the line.

"When you're leaving the huddle, you're thinking of what the quarterback's told you," says Young, a college defensive lineman before being switched to offense his senior season at BYU. "You're thinking of the cadence, whether it's the silent count, if it's on 1, on 2, on 3, if it's first sound. You're thinking of the play, you're thinking of your assignment. You're hearing several calls from linemen, your center's making a call, you and the tackle are calling. There's a lot of stuff that goes into it that I'm sure a lot of people don't understand. You just can't go to the line without thinking. But if you're thinking about something too much, you're not thinking about the hard part, and the hard part is blocking a player on the other side of the ball who is as good or better than you."

Hannah concurs: "When I was in front of Randy White, I knew how quick he was," remembers New England's nine-time Pro Bowler of the Dallas Cowboys' Hall of Fame defensive tackle. "I'd go to (quarterback) Steve Grogan and tell him, 'Steve, whatever you do, don't alter the cadence.' If you have a rhythmic cadence and the quarterback changes it, man, you're in trouble — especially with a guy like Randy or Alan Page. They had that superhuman speed and quickness. Man, you were looking for any advantage you could get."

Young's miscue was but one of 725 false starts committed over the course of the 2006 NFL season, an average of a little less than one and a half per game. In the final analysis, it really isn't the volume of these offenses but rather where they take place during a contest that is often so critical. In the heat of the Patriots' 1976 AFC divisional playoff loss to Oakland, New England, leading 21–17, was driving for a clinching touchdown, when the false start reared its ugly head at a most inopportune time.

"There was a critical play near the end of the game, and about two or three of us jumped offside," recalls Hannah. "We'd always gone on second sound when it was a short-yardage situation. All of a sudden, Grogan called it on first sound, and three of us jumped offside. It cost us a first down. We were just so used to a certain way of doing things that, in the tenseness of the moment, we screwed up."

Young's line coach, Juan Castillo, has long experienced the vexation of the false start as he heads into his 13th season with the Eagles.

"It's anticipation," says Castillo, 47, one of only four Hispanic coaches in the NFL. "They're trying to get a jump. They're trying to get an advantage on the defensive guy. With one of my players, a big part of his game is the anticipation of the snap count. So, sometimes, if the quarterback holds the count or if he changes his cadence at all, the lineman is going to jump. The hardest part is when you're on the road. The guys are trying to anticipate, and all of a sudden, for whatever reason, when they anticipate wrong, then *Bam*! False start!"

During the past regular season, an ex-NFL player now doing analysis in the broadcast booth called the false start "the most avoidable penalty in football," claiming that the player is just not focused, not concentrating. Longtime NFL offensive line coach Tom Lovat tends to agree that focus lies at the heart of the false start.

"I think you hit on it there," says Lovat, 68, who spent 23 years mentoring the offensive lines of the St. Louis-Arizona Cardinals, Indianapolis Colts, Green Bay Packers and Seattle Seahawks before retiring after the 2003 season. "There are a lot of times when a player does lose focus. And then it's concentration sometimes. He forgets the snap count or he's a little afraid he'll not get off on whoever he's playing against. That does it a lot of times, just the anticipation of being beat."

But Hannah sees it differently. "Most of the times when I jumped offside, it wasn't because I was underfocused, it was because I was too focused," says the man once called by *Sports Illustrated* "the best offensive lineman of all time."

"They say it's because a guy's not paying attention to the snap count, but sometimes it's because you're just waiting. Quarterbacks get into a rhythm, and the offensive lineman is anticipating that rhythm. Let's say it's on two, and he normally says hut, hut, but instead he goes hut, (pause), hut, well, you're going on the rhythm more than the sound."

Castillo sides with Hannah. "Lack of focus, I don't know if I believe that," he says. "I'm more into the guys trying to take advantage of the snap count. At home, that's an advantage to the offense. You're trying to anticipate that. More than anything, the quarterback has to have the same rhythm, everybody has to be on that. That's the key. Part of that is what kind of audible system do you have? Are there times when the quarterback changes the snap? When a team has problems with false starts, they have to look into that part of it too, not just, 'Well, this guy's not focused.' To me, that's the easy way out. It's like saying that offensive linemen cannot bend. That's the way we look at it."

An interesting paradox in the false-start penalty is the position of center. Rarely if ever do you see the center jump offside or forget the count. He is the play's igniter, the fuse that fires the action. By its very nature then, the accountability at that position would seem to be higher.

"No question about that," agrees Lovat, who worked with the Cologne Centurions of NFL Europe this past spring, helping develop former NFL players trying to get into coaching. "When the center comes out of there, a lot of times you'll see those other linemen saying, 'What's it on? What's it on?' That's a good valid statement, because he is more accountable. If you don't get the ball up, there's no play. From Day One in practice, they've got to get the ball up or the wrath comes down on them."

Hannah isn't quite so sure about the center's perpetual perfection. "A lot of times you don't see the center make the error, because he may snap it early," Hannah notes, laughing. "When he goes offside nobody sees it."

So what can be done to curb the false start? What can a player or a line coach do to prevent early movement on future plays?

"At home, it shouldn't happen, unless the quarterback for some reason is not in the same rhythm or unless he changes the play and, again, it's not in the same rhythm," notes Castillo. "On the road, the only thing you can do is go on the silent count. We practice that the whole week (before a road game), just as, I'm sure, everybody else does. We went into Kansas City last year, which is supposedly the loudest outdoor stadium, and we used the silent count and didn't have one. Howard Mudd (line coach) at Indy, they're probably one of the best at going with the silent count on the road. Sometimes they use it at home. But not everybody is as good. That's what you're shooting for."

Hannah offers a practical tip to limit false starts from his playing days under another Hall of Famer. "When Jim Ringo used to be with us (as line coach), he'd have us do something that would carry the cadence up to the line," says Hannah. "For instance, I'd put my thumb on a finger. Using my left hand, which was not on the ground, I might touch my left finger or put more pressure on my index finger against my hand or my second finger, just to remind me of the count. Something like that. You carry some signal up to the line of scrimmage with you."

Lovat, who has coached such notable Pro Bowlers as Walter Jones, Luis Sharpe, Dan Dierdorf, Chris Hinton, and Ron Solt, shakes his head when asked what in the end can realistically be done to curb the violation.

"I really don't know if you can avoid the false start," he says. "In a noisy stadium, we've tried everything from the linemen holding hands, so that they all came up together; we've had the silent count. Some of them don't want to hold hands, some don't want to be up in a two-point stance. I think the only thing you can do is just keep harping on it, and when you get to those noisy situations, have the linemen look at the ball in some way or fashion. Now, you hate to do that as an offensive lineman, because one of the advantages you have is knowing the snap count. You know the snap count, you know where the play is going, and if you can't take advantage of that, then you're playing even with the defense."

With the memory of his season-ending miscue still fresh in his head, Young admits to having beat up on himself, yet sees the incident as an unmistakable opportunity to grow.

"You can look at it negatively and not take anything from it, or you can look at it as a positive," says Young. "To me, it's a bad thing that happened, but it's something that's going to be in my head, it's something that I know I can work on. With more experience, more reps, and just playing more, it's something I can minimize. I'm not ever going to say that that one play is going to make it to where I never commit another false start again, but I can honestly tell you that that's going to be one play that I can look at and judge myself on for the rest of my career."

Young's mentor, Castillo, knows brighter days are ahead for the talented young guard. "Like everything else, you don't lose a game with one play," Castillo says of Young's false start. "He's a good kid. He's going to be a good player; great person; he works hard. And you know, as a coach, I have to do a better job."

The false start. The next time you get ready to bombard some quick-jumping player with cries of "Bonehead!," you might remember the substance of what some of these knowledgeable men in the field have shared.

"No penalty is ever good," Young says in reflection. "The false start is not one of your real big ones, but in certain situations, it's a game-stopper."

To which Hannah adds, "People aren't perfect. Everybody makes mistakes. They haven't made the perfect guy yet." ■

Alan Ross is the author of Steelers Glory, I Remember Reggie White, Browns Glory, *and* Packer Pride.

BREAK THRU TASTE!
Smart Eating!
Irresistible Snacking!
BLUE DIAMOND
ALMONDS
Smokehouse
9g NET CARBS
BLUE DIAMOND
ALMONDS
THE FOOTBALL·NUT
Have You Had Your Can A Week?®
©2007 Blue Diamond® Growers Inc. 1802 C Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 442-0771
www.bluediamond.com

TOMLINSON DOES IT THE RIGHT WAY

HE'S ALWAYS EMULATED WALTER PAYTON

Momma, don't let your sons grow up to be Cowboys.

Though that's all a young LaDainian Tomlinson ever wanted to do.

Instead, the Texas native and Dallas Cowboys fan matured and became a Charger. For that, San Diego thanks the football gods on a daily basis.

"He is Superman," Chargers fullback Lorenzo Neal said, "without the cape."

Tomlinson's daily planet revolves around the upcoming season, hoping to better the accomplishments of his 2006 campaign.

Good luck, LT.

He set the NFL single-season marks for touchdowns (31) and points scored (186), while leading the league in rushing (1,815 yards) and being the league's MVP.

The real MVP? That's his mother, Loreane, Tomlinson's Most Valuable Parent.

Minus her work forming the foundation for her famous son's character, his thrilling San Diego runs might have never happened. Oliver Tomlinson, his father who died in an automobile crash this offseason, was seldom in the picture.

That put the focus of shaping Tomlinson on Loreane. By all accounts, her efforts resemble the excellence Tomlinson displayed in leading the Chargers to last year's NFL-best, 14-2 regular season mark.

"My mother had a big part," Tomlinson said of his upbringing. "She would say, 'I want you to look at the newspaper and see where a 16-year-old kid got shot,' and stuff like that.

"She gave me a lot of wisdom and I thought, you know what, this is serious business, even at 16 years old. She wanted to make sure I was on the straight and narrow a lot of the time."

Tomlinson, like every other teen, shrugged. He once stiff-armed mom's advice as if it was a would-be tackler.

"I was in high school and she told me not to do something, to not go out with my friends and I went out," Tomlinson said softly, as if still ashamed. "I ended up getting in a big fight and she was, 'What did I tell you?' "

Her words stung. Her disappointed look burned an indelible mark that Tomlinson remembers to this day.

"I felt horrible," Tomlinson said. "I felt absolutely horrible."

Some say he's done little wrong since.

Among the truckload of awards Tomlinson received for his historic 2006 season was a particularly sweet one. Tomlinson, along with Saints quarterback and former Chargers teammate Drew Brees, shared the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award.

Not a big deal? It was to Tomlinson, who counted the great Chicago Bears running back among his American NFL idols.

A young Tomlinson noticed how his heroes carried the ball, and themselves.

"I remember watching Emmitt Smith, Barry Sanders, Walter, and the way they did it was the right way," Tomlinson said. "They were in the community doing what is right. They weren't getting into trouble. And that is what I try to emulate."

Tomlinson isn't a Xerox of other prima donna superstars.

Want proof? Among Tomlinson's honors came one from San Diego's chapter of the Pro Football Writers of America. Tomlinson was named its good guy for always being available, after record-setting or dismal games. He could rush for 200 yards or 12, and he would honor his commitment.

Tomlinson also reveals his throwback spirit every time he scores. While others gyrate, pose and pound their chests, Tomlinson casually flips the ball to the official.

"To me the celebration is drawing attention at the end of the play," Tomlinson said. "People have seen that play and that was the ooh, aah, wow. Then when you get into the end zone, there is no need to do any more ooh, aah, wow to me because you are drawing attention to yourself.

"A lot of times it seems like guys (think) it's all about me, look at me. I don't know, man, maybe I am just different. Maybe that is the way I think."

Those thoughts were molded by his upbringing, though in a youth league game, Tomlinson scored and shook his hips as if on American Bandstand.

"I can bust a move," Tomlinson said.

As a 10-year old, he proved it on a dare.

"My older sister (Londria) wanted me to dance when I scored the touchdown and she told me a special dance to do and I worked on it," Tomlinson said. "I scored the touchdown and I started doing the dance and I saw my sister stand up. She was clapping when I was doing the dance."

Then a referee slid over, which was followed by a frown from Tomlinson's mother.

"You know that dance you just did young man," he said. "You can't do that until you get into the National Football League."

Now that he can do it on Sundays, he declines.

"I think my Pop Warner coaches, even my high school coaches, were like, 'Son, we don't do that,' " Tomlinson said. "They felt like it was making fun of your opponent after you scored by dancing and it was never right. I think at a young age my coaches really got that clear to me what it was all about."

Tomlinson knows right and wrong as well as which way to run. He accepts youngsters emulating NFL players — especially All-Pros — and doesn't want to let anyone down.

Tomlinson spends money on Christmas gifts for at-risk kids. He pops for Thanksgiving turkeys for struggling families. He holds a youth football camp in Texas; guarantees his LT School is Cool Scholarship fund is flush with cash for deserving students.

Each home contest, his 21 Club screams its support. Tomlinson treats 21 children to a Chargers game, offering an encouraging word afterward.

Tomlinson's devotion wasn't lost on Payton's widow, Connie, when presenting him with the prestigious award named for her husband.

"Your time, efforts, generosity and funding programs for children of all ages are nothing short of admirable," she said. "Everything you do is hands-on, and it focuses on the well-being of today's youth who are tomorrow's future."

Tomlinson bows his head in reverence. That's why the Walter Payton Award trumped everything else.

BY JAY PARIS

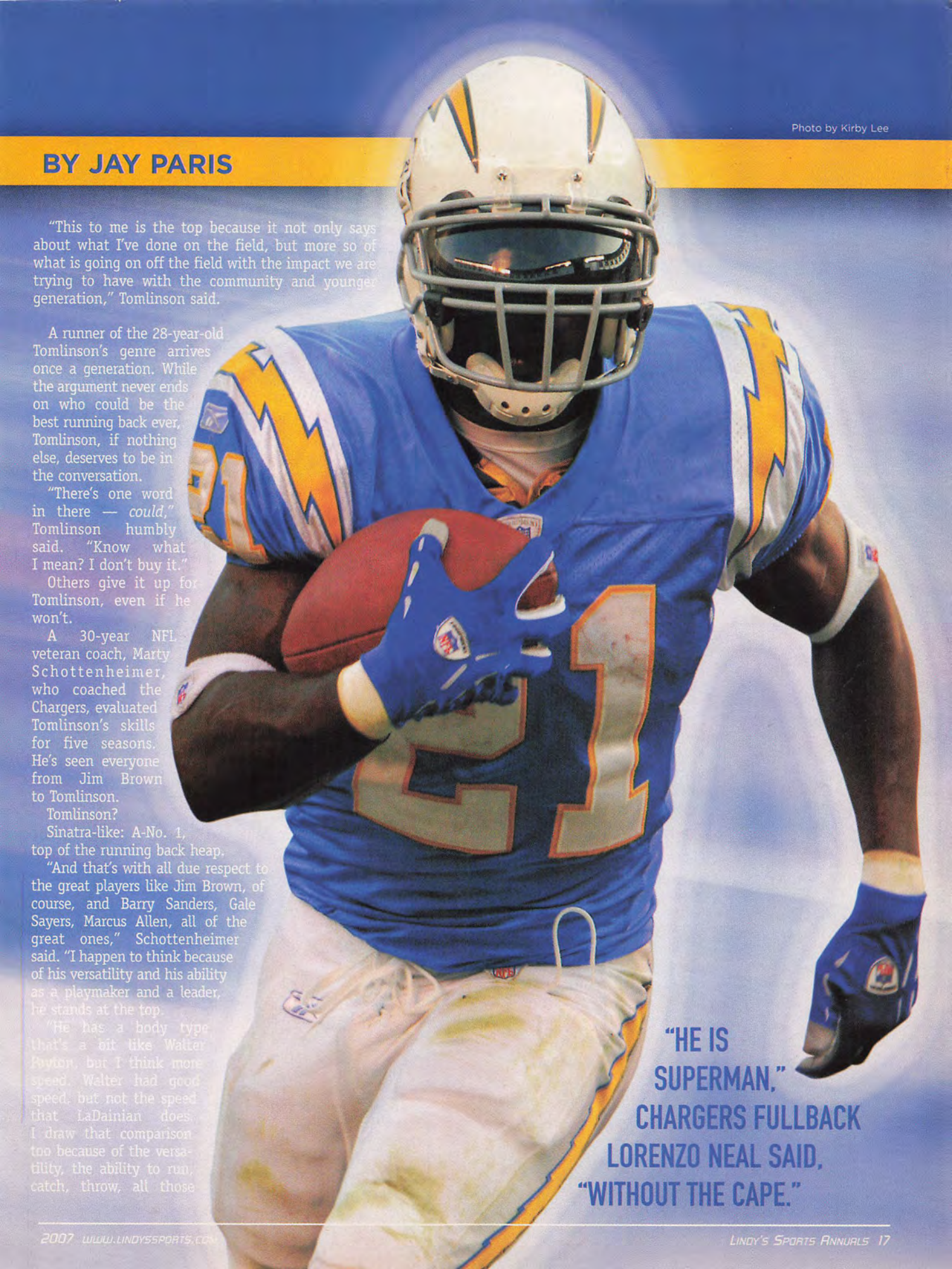


Photo by Kirby Lee

"This to me is the top because it not only says about what I've done on the field, but more so of what is going on off the field with the impact we are trying to have with the community and younger generation," Tomlinson said.

A runner of the 28-year-old Tomlinson's genre arrives once a generation. While the argument never ends on who could be the best running back ever, Tomlinson, if nothing else, deserves to be in the conversation.

"There's one word in there — *could*," Tomlinson humbly said. "Know what I mean? I don't buy it."

Others give it up for Tomlinson, even if he won't.

A 30-year NFL veteran coach, Marty Schottenheimer, who coached the Chargers, evaluated Tomlinson's skills for five seasons. He's seen everyone from Jim Brown to Tomlinson.

Tomlinson?

Sinatra-like: A-No. 1, top of the running back heap.

"And that's with all due respect to the great players like Jim Brown, of course, and Barry Sanders, Gale Sayers, Marcus Allen, all of the great ones," Schottenheimer said. "I happen to think because of his versatility and his ability as a playmaker and a leader, he stands at the top.

"He has a body type that's a bit like Walter Payton, but I think more speed. Walter had good speed, but not the speed that LaDainian does. I draw that comparison too because of the versatility, the ability to run, catch, throw, all those

"HE IS SUPERMAN," CHARGERS FULLBACK LORENZO NEAL SAID, "WITHOUT THE CAPE."

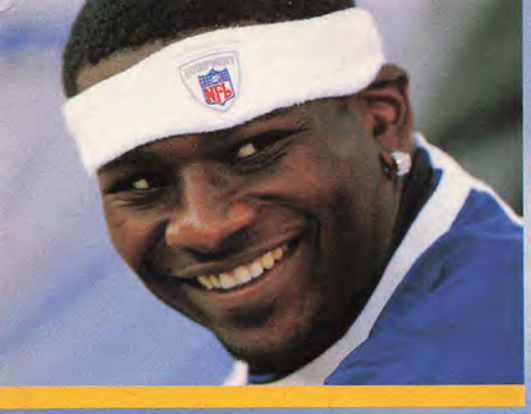


Photo by Kirby Lee

things that Walter did.

"Then of course, Jim Brown was arguably the guy you identify with greatness as a runner; only played nine seasons. There's a similarity there, although Jim is bigger than LT. Those are the two that come to mind.

"There's different eras, obviously, to these players. LaDainian, he's just a remarkable, remarkable player."

The 5-10, 221-pound Tomlinson entered last season with more touchdown passes thrown than his quarterback, Philip Rivers. Tomlinson catches passes like no other back; he had 100 receptions and 1,000 yards rushing in 2003. He blocks with a nasty streak, gaining leverage against bigger rivals.

"He can hurt you in so many ways," Rivers said, aware of Tomlinson's six touchdown passes.

"There isn't a better player in football than LaDainian Tomlinson," Joe Theismann said on Monday Night Football. "You talk about him being the best running back in football? He's the best player in football right now."

Tomlinson hears the talk, reluctant to walk the walk along the running backs' holy grail. He obviously belongs, but his admiration for others silences him from tooting his horn. Instead, Tomlinson's tune is about the team.

"My main goal is winning the Super Bowl," said Tomlinson, still seeking the first playoff victory of his illustrious seven-year career. "Obviously, I have my own goals in my mind I would love to accomplish. But there's not a point where I really focus on them and say, 'I want to get this many yards this season, or in this game this many yards.' It doesn't matter. If we are winning, then comes all the goals you would want to accomplish."

If arriving, it'll be partly due to the mind-boggling skills displayed by the Chargers' No. 21. He might be No. 1 in causing defenders to miss tackles.

"We say it all the time that we are going to leave one guy for (Tomlinson) and that is the way it is in a bunch of places," Rivers said. "But in a bunch of places, that guy can't beat that other guy. But here, we take our chances with that matchup.

"You kind of catch yourself sometimes when you are out there and you look over and he is right there beside you. For one thing, it is comforting to know and the other thing is, 'Golly, I used to watch the guy' and this is a lot of fun."

Tomlinson makes it a joy to call him a teammate. Considering Tomlinson's impressive resume, him big-timing, lesser-known players wouldn't be shocking.

It also wouldn't be in Tomlinson's DNA.

"He's not the typical superstar; he's the teammate," Rivers said. "He's the team favorite. It's hard when he gets as much attention as he gets to be the team favorite, to have every lineman love you and have a backup defensive tackle love you."

What's not to embrace?

Tomlinson is a threat to score with his legs, hands or accurate right arm.

Football is about touchdowns. No one snagged them faster than Tomlinson, who reached 100 in 89 games. That shattered Brown and Smith's mark of 93.

But Tomlinson spreads credit like Rivers distributes passes. Without the big uglies' aid up front, Tomlinson recognizes the pretty shot of him reaching the end zone wouldn't develop.

"I've got to point out our offensive line and the way they played," Tomlinson said. "Those guys are just a relentless group of guys. They love to battle and they love to take something out of the defense every time they hit them. That's just the way they play. And obviously, Lorenzo Neal is the best in the business at blocking."

Tomlinson's trips often reach the goal line; his 28 rushing scores last season was yet another NFL record. When nearing the end zone, Tomlinson's resolve stiffens.

"When you get the ball in the red zone, I think you've got to be determined to get in the end zone, whether it's from 20 yards, 30 yards or from two yards," he said. "You have to be really determined to get into the end zone because it gets harder.

"A lot of times teams know what's coming, and the thing that's going to push you over is how bad you want it, your determination to score."

The Chargers have a score to settle after winning their second AFC West title in three years. Despite a gaudy regular-season record and clutching the AFC's top seed, they again went flat in the playoffs.

The underdog New England Patriots extended the Chargers' post-season misery, which dates to 1994 — the last time they won a playoff game.

The sting of January's home pratfall still pains Tomlinson. He aches for a Super Bowl title this season, not consecutive rushing crowns.

So he'll try to do more. Try to get the Chargers, led by new head coach Norv Turner, over the playoff hump.

Why? Because that's what Walter Payton would do.

The memories of Payton's play always has a place with Tomlinson.

"He was the reason why I wanted to play running back," Tomlinson said. "So seeing him at an early age, I think I was five years old or something, and there was something about him that I was drawn to. Walter was able to do anything you asked him to do out on the football field. He was able to do it.

"So I tried to pattern my game after that the same way, saying that, you know, that's the way you play football. I'm a running back, but yet still I can do anything that a coach asks me to do out on the football field."

Tomlinson is benevolent — on and off the field. Just like Payton.

"He played the game so unselfish," Tomlinson said. "When he ran the football, you obviously knew how special he was. But even when he blocked, when he caught the football, even seeing him throwing the football, that's what made him such a special player."

Tomlinson could be describing himself.

"I knew it when I was five years old that I wanted to play running back," he said, "and it was because of him."

It's because of Tomlinson that San Diego enters the season peeking at neighboring Arizona. That's the Super Bowl XLII site, and Tomlinson wants to hang his new Chargers helmet there come February.

He's confident others on the roster are more than fancy window dressing in revamped uniforms.

"All around, the talent that we have on both sides of the ball is phenomenal," said Tomlinson, who had 17 victories in his first three Chargers' seasons. "You've got guys at a lot of positions that can truly make plays. That hasn't been the case here in the past, since I've been here."

The here and now shows a powerful Chargers squad potentially poised for greatness, led by possibly the game's greatest running back.

The Chargers have grown, centered around a Texas kid wanting to grow up a Cowboy. He settled for being a Charger, with San Diego's NFL fans saying "yippee" ever since. ■

PLAY FOR FREE PLAY FOR FREE PLAY FOR FREE PLAY FOR FREE PLAY FOR FREE

SPORTS® BETTING NET

www.sportsbetting.net

win

$1,000,000

and a trip to the PRO FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME in HAWAII

Plus these exciting prizes await you!

- *Panasonic 50" HDTV and Home Theater System*
- *Nintendo Wii Package*
- *Apple iPhone*
- *Monthly Bonus Prizes*

Play for free at: www.sportsbetting.net

$1,000,000 GRIDIRON Pick'em

© 2007

No purchase necessary to enter or win. Void where prohibited by law. Must be at least 18 years old to play.

NFC EAST

THIS DIVISION LEADS THE WAY IN STORY LINES

The best of the NFC divisions sent three teams to the playoffs last year, but won only one game among them when the Philadelphia Eagles ousted the New York Giants. So the NFC East still isn't exactly the beast of old.

It is still the best division for stories of intrigue, even without retired Bill Parcells and Tiki Barber. It still has Jerry Jones and Joe Gibbs and Andy Reid and Eli Manning and Michael Strahan and Tom Coughlin and Donovan McNabb and, of course, Terrell Owens.

Reid's Eagles bounced from worst to first without Owens and captured their fifth title in six years. They remain the favorites.

Wade Phillips replaced Parcells in Dallas and immediately called Owens by name, signaling a Texas-sized breakthrough.

Coughlin doesn't have Barber to kick him around anymore, but still occupies the hottest seat in the league.

Gibbs is still trying to wake up the echoes in Washington, where his record of 22-28 has him 118 wins behind his first go-around.

DALLAS COWBOYS

If the Eagles don't prevail again, the Cowboys look ready to take over. New coach Wade Phillips is a good fit to take the 3-4 defense to a new level. Owner Jerry Jones is so convinced by quarterback Tony Romo's rapid progress that he passed up a chance to draft Brady Quinn.

In only 10 starts, Romo got to the Pro Bowl and helped his team to the playoffs before the fateful bobbled snap in Seattle ended the season. Romo should benefit from Terrell Owens playing without a broken finger, a very good excuse that failed to keep Owens from catching a league-high 13 touchdown passes.

NEW YORK GIANTS

Tom Coughlin got a one-year extension on his contract through 2008, which means he must win in 2007. Unless quarterback Eli Manning makes a dramatic breakthrough from not bad to real good, the Giants don't have much of a chance.

Tiki Barber was the best player in the division and now the Giants are Manning's team exclusively. A quiet off-season of acquisitions plugged some holes, but unless the players already on the roster improve, this looks like an 8-8 team heading toward, well, 8-8.

Michael Strahan is still the best player on a defense that ranked 25th and he is 35 years old coming off a foot injury.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Andy Reid pulled off the shocker of the draft by trading out of the first round and making Houston quarterback Kevin Kolb his first choice in the second round. He said his team doesn't need much help and it was no reflection on Donovan McNabb's rehabilitation from a knee injury. Reid's record earns him the benefit of the doubt.

Free agency netted the Eagles speedy slot receiver Kevin Curtis from St. Louis and defensive starters Montae Reagor from Indianapolis and Takeo Spikes from Buffalo (trade). A whole lot depends on Brian Westbrook's health again, as well as McNabb's. Westbrook is coming off his best season and his 240 rushes and 77 receptions were career highs.

One thing for sure: this is a team and a coach that knows how to win.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Joe Gibbs got into the Hall of Fame after winning three Super Bowls with three different quarterbacks. None were as inexperienced as Jason Campbell, the key to the Redskins' chances in the near future.

With Clinton Portis and Santana Moss, Campbell has significant help. He also isn't the only key. The ballyhooed defense plummeted from ninth to 31st last season and still has issues despite the addition of linebacker London Fletcher in free agency and safety LaRon Landry in the draft.

Highly-paid coordinators Al Saunders on offense and Gregg Williams on defense are on the spot. So is Gibbs.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Is Donovan McNabb healthy and can he stay that way?

When Andy Reid drafted quarterback Kevin Kolb, it provided a glimpse at a hazy future for McNabb and the Eagles. Reid claims he'll be ready, but maybe not by training camp.

2. Can Tony Romo recover from a bad ending to a good season?

Yes. Like an interception, a fumble is a play that must be instantly erased from the memory bank. The Cowboys have no chance to win if a botched snap is going to rattle a young quarterback.

3. What rookie will make the quickest impact?

Anthony Spencer. The Cowboys needed a pass rusher to complement DeMarcus Ware and got one.

4. Will Tiki Barber come out of retirement?

No. He will enjoy the other side of the camera too much to consider a comeback, even though the Giants still need him badly.

5. Can Clinton Portis or Brian Westbrook become the new Tiki Barber?

No. Portis has played a full 16 games only twice, Westbrook never; Barber did it eight times in his career.

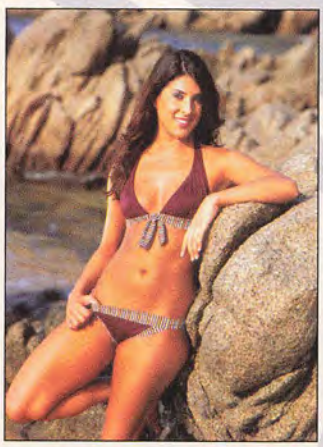
— Don Pierson

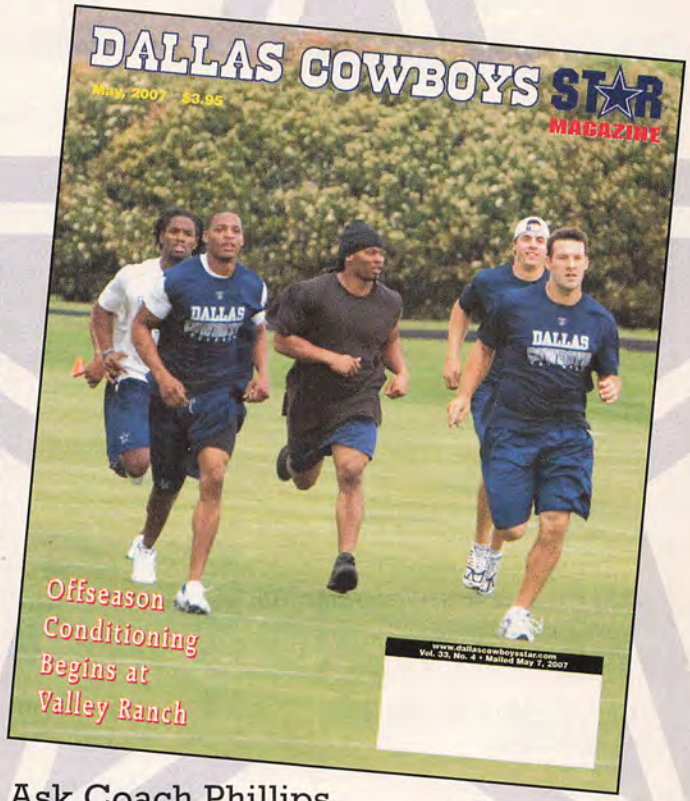
$25 OFF for Lindy's Readers

Internet Only Subscription

Just some of the Recent Articles

- ★ Carpenter Ready for Challenge
- ★ Personnel Philosophy
- ★ Key Issues Remain
- ★ Profile: Marc Colombo
- ★ Where Are They Now? – James Washington
- ★ At Home with Chris Canty
- ★ Featured Cheerleaders





Formerly *Dallas Cowboys Official Weekly*

NEW, UPDATED WEBSITE!

www.DallasCowboysStar.com

Game coverage
Action photos
Draft coverage
Mini camps
Training camp
Profiles
Rookie reports
And
CHEERLEADERS!

800.399.4465

$25 OFF
Internet Only
Subscription
Coupon Code
LAug07

Offer valid through
Aug. 31, 2007

- ★ Ask Coach Phillips
- ★ At Home With...
- ★ Behind the Scenes
- ★ Letters to the Editor
- ★ Game Previews
- ★ On the Sidelines

NEW MAGAZINE FORMAT

To order your subscription by credit card – MasterCard/Visa/Amex/Discover you may call

972/556-9972 or 800/399-4465

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (CT) Monday thru Friday
or log on to www.dallascowboysstar.com
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Star published weekly August thru January, monthly February thru July

DALLAS COWBOYS STAR MAGAZINE

One Cowboys Pkwy. • Irving, TX 75063

LPF-07

INCLUDES INTERNET ACCESS!

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal (Attach *Weekly* Mailing Label) ☐ Gift
Call for First Class (US Only) and Foreign Rates
Please enter my subscription to *Dallas Cowboys Star Magazine*
☐ 1 year (32 issues) for $49.95 (magazine PLUS internet)
☐ Internet only, Reg. $39.00 - $25.00 = $14.00 (Lindy's special)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip +4 _____

e-mail _____

☐ Enclosed find check or money order in the amount of $ _____ made payable to *DALLAS COWBOYS STAR MAGAZINE*

☐ Charge to my ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Discover Exp. Date _____

_____
Credit Card Number (Use a dash where there is a space)

Signature _____

DALLAS COWBOYS

2006 RECORD: 9-8 | STADIUM: Texas Stadium, 65,229, Realgrass by SportField | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

NFC EAST | www.dallascowboys.com

AT A GLANCE

Cowboys Center
One Cowboys Parkway
Irving, TX 75063
(972) 556-9900

TRAINING CAMP:
San Antonio, TX

COACH:
Wade Phillips, 1st year with Cowboys, 6th full season as NFL head coach (48-42)

OWNER/GENERAL MANAGER:
Jerry Jones

COO/EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Stephen Jones

VICE PRESIDENT COLLEGE & PRO SCOUTING:
Jeff Ireland

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Jason Garrett	Offensive coordinator	3	1
Wade Wilson	Quarterbacks	7	1
Tony Sparano	*Offensive line	9	5
Ray Sherman	Receivers	20	1
Skip Peete	Running backs	10	1
John Garrett	Tight ends	9	1
Wes Phillips	Offensive quality control	1	1
Brian Stewart	Defensive coordinator	6	1
Kacy Rodgers	Defensive line	9	5
Paul Pasqualoni	Linebackers	3	3
Todd Bowles	Secondary	8	3
Dat Nguyen	Defensive quality control/ assistant Linebackers	1	1
Bruce Read	Special teams	6	1
Joe Juraszek	Strength & Conditioning	11	11

*Assistant head coach

Cowboys Hope Laid-Back Wade is an Elixir

Bill Parcells came to the Cowboys four years ago as a savior. Now he is being blamed for everything that went wrong.

Well, Parcells is gone and with new coach Wade Phillips comes the expectations of taking the final steps toward making the Cowboys champions again.

Owner Jerry Jones, who acknowledged that he even walked on eggshells around Parcells, said the team needed a looser atmosphere so they could have fun playing football again.

The players, not just Terrell Owens, believe being free from Parcells' old-school ways on the field and in the locker room will help them perform better as a team.

And because they felt they were so close last year, losing to the Seahawks in the wild-card playoffs on a botched field goal in the final minute, the Cowboys believe 2007 can be their year.

A host of free-agent upgrades, led by guard Leonard Davis, and the continued development of quarterback Tony Romo has the Cowboys not only hoping for their first playoff victory since 1996, but a Super Bowl run.

COACHING

Phillips is a distinct contrast to Parcells in the locker room and on the field. The players will appreciate his laid-back style. They will also appreciate his aggressive approach to defense.

The biggest concern comes on offense where Jason Garrett brings little experience to the offensive coordinator position. Garrett will get help from offensive line coach Tony Sparano, who called plays last year, and receivers coach Ray Sherman, who has been an offensive coordinator.

But Garrett has final say. Although he is considered a bright coach who was a coach in waiting while serving as a backup, he has never formulated a game plan or called plays in the fourth quarter of a tight game.

RATING: 7

QUARTERBACKS

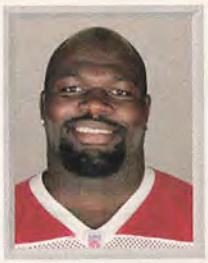
Speaking of eggshells, the Cowboys have put all of their eggs in the Tony Romo basket.

They made that decision when they passed on Brady Quinn in this year's draft. The Cowboys believe the Romo Cinderella story is for real. This undrafted free agent, who didn't throw a pass in his first three years in the league, caught lightning in the bottle in 2006, going 5-1 in his first six starts. Romo even made the Pro Bowl. But his star had a dramatic fall as he went 1-4 in his last five games, and had seven touchdowns, six interceptions and lost five fumbles.

Still, the Cowboys believe they saw enough of Romo to believe he is their quarterback for now and the future. The Cowboys signed 15-year veteran Brad Johnson. Romo is the ninth starting quarterback for the Cowboys since Troy Aikman retired in

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
OG Leonard Davis



Davis didn't live up to expectations in Arizona. But he longed for a return to Texas. He grew up 90 miles south of Dallas in tiny Wortham and starred at the University of Texas.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
S Ken Hamlin, OL Jim Molinaro

KEY LOSS:
QB Drew Bledsoe (6/6)*
The Cowboys suffered few key losses in the off-season, but Bledsoe's was the biggest name. He lost the starting job to Tony Romo, was cut early in the off-season, and retired.

OTHER LOSSES
DE Kenyon Coleman (16/0), T Jason Fabini (15/9), LB Ryan Fowler (16/0), TE Ryan Hannam (2/0), C Al Johnson (16/0), S Tony Parrish (1/0), TE Brett Pierce (0/0), LB Al Singleton (16/6)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
21; 10 offense, 11 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

2000. A 10th could be drafted in 2008 if the Romo experiment doesn't work.

RATING: 7

RUNNING BACKS

The Cowboys are prime examples of the new NFL phenomenon of running back tandems. While Julius Jones may not be the star running back the Cowboys thought he could be, he is an important part of one of the league's top 1-2 punches.

Jones rushed for 1,084 yards last season, becoming the first Cowboys running back to top the 1,000-yard mark since Emmitt Smith in 2001 and just the fifth in team history. Not to be outdone was backup Marion Barber, the team's third-down and short-yardage back. Barber had 654 rushing yards, 196 receiving yards and 16 total touchdowns.

RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

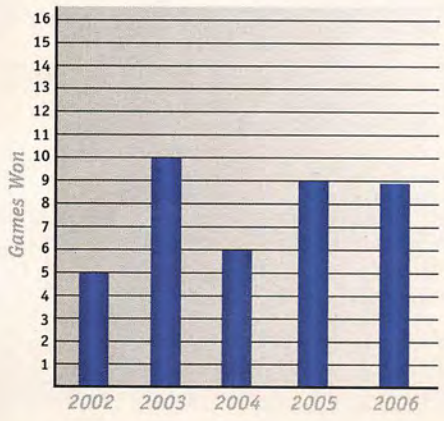
Say what you will about Terrell Owens' season last year. He was a distraction off the field. He was injured and he dropped 17 passes. He also caught 85 passes for 1,180 yards and a league-high 13 touchdowns.

After two off-season surgeries to repair a torn tendon in his right ring finger, the Cowboys are hoping Owens will have an even bigger impact in 2007. What's already certain is that he and Terry Glenn form one of the league's best receiver tandems. Glenn had 1,047 yards and six touchdowns, making it the second time in team history the Cowboys had two receivers top the 1,000-yard barrier. Both will be 33 at the start of the season, but they are still productive, as is third receiver Pat Crayton, who caught 36 passes for 516 yards and four touchdowns.

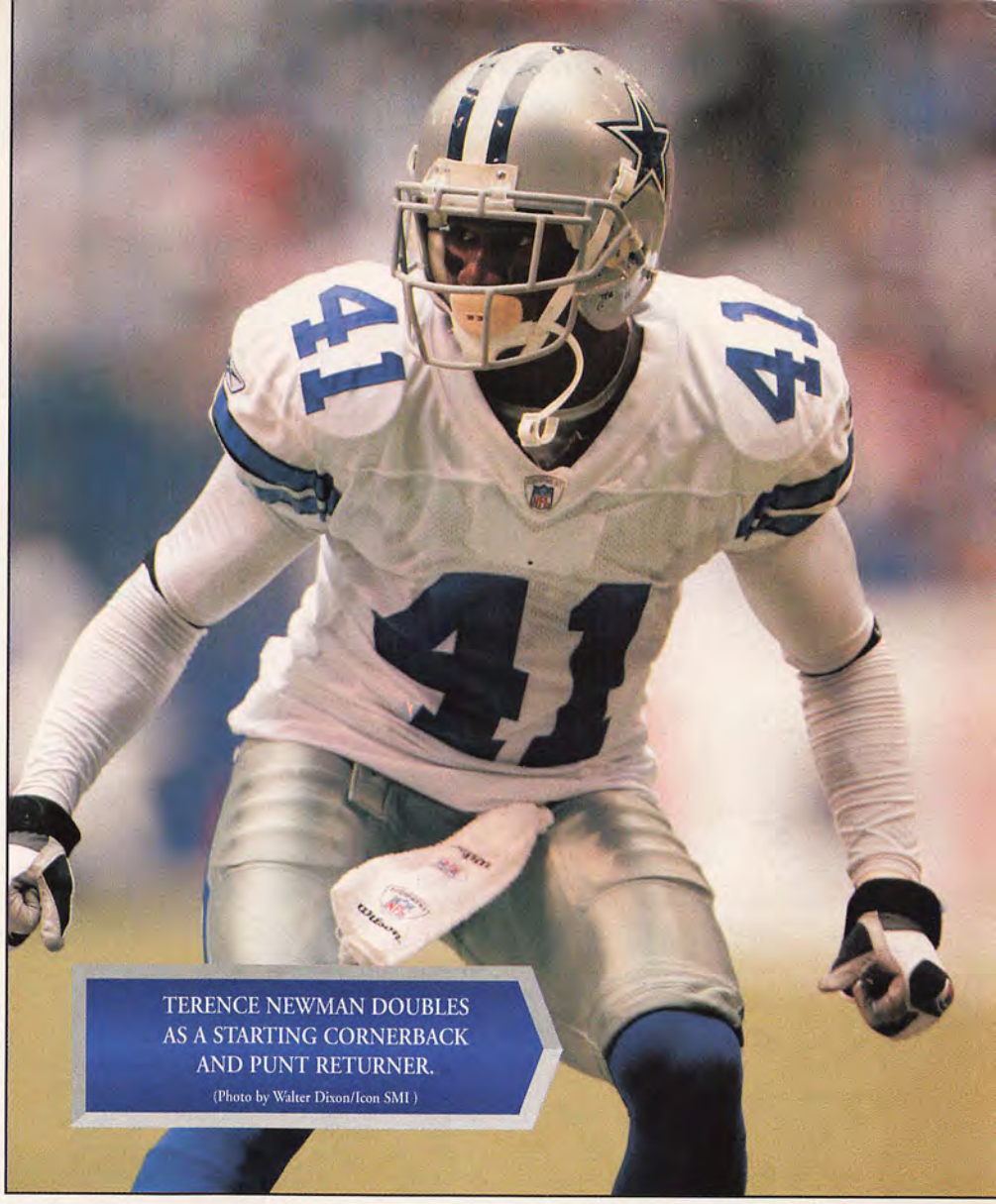
With tight end Jason Witten, the Cowboys have as impressive a set of pass catchers as any in the league. Witten, who has been to the last three Pro Bowls, had 64 catches for 754 yards in 2006. He has 217 catches the past three years.

RATING: 8

WINS PER YEAR



**** Made Playoffs: 2003***



TERENCE NEWMAN DOUBLES AS A STARTING CORNERBACK AND PUNT RETURNER.

(Photo by Walter Dixon/Icon SMI)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Fixing the offensive line was the biggest priority of the off-season.

The Cowboys believe they addressed the position in a big way with the addition of guard Leonard Davis, who received a team record $16 million signing bonus on a seven year, $49 million contract.

The Cowboys also re-signed center Andre Gurode and right tackle Marc Colombo. Add in left tackle Flozell Adams and left guard Kyle Kosier, and the Cowboys believe they have their best offensive line since the 1995 Super Bowl season.

Adams and Gurode were Pro Bowlers last season. Colombo was the surprise of 2006 when he came out of nowhere to start at right tackle after being a first-round bust in Chicago. Kosier was solid in his first season replacing future Hall of Famer Larry Allen.

RATING: 8

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Probably the only people happier with Parcells' departure than Owens are defensive ends Marcus Spears and Chris Canty. Both were called out by Parcells for a lack of production. They combined for 48 tackles and two sacks in 2006. But Spears, a first-round pick in 2005, blames Parcells' rigid scheme for his mediocre numbers. He believes he will once again be a disruptive player under the aggressive play-calling of Phillips.

Nose tackle Jason Ferguson finally lived up to the $9 million signing bonus he got in 2005 with a strong 2006 campaign. It will be interesting to see how he performs without Parcells riding him every day. It also should be noted that he will be 33 next season and the Cowboys have no experienced depth behind him.

RATING: 6

LINEBACKERS

DeMarcus Ware can't wait for the season to start. He has been compared to Shawne Merriman ever since the Cowboys took him over Merriman in the 2005 draft. Merriman had the fortune of playing for Phillips in San Diego, recording 27 sacks the past two years.

COWBOYS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
14	Austin, Miles (KR)	6-3	215	2	Monmouth	9/0	OFA 06	OFA DALL 06	Turned into a good kick returner, but what is his future as a receiver?
84	Crayton, Patrick	6-0	205	4	Northwestern Oklahoma	16/6	FA 04	D7 DALL 04	Looking for big year; will be unrestricted free agent in 2008.
89	Curtis, Tony (TE)	6-5	265	2	Portland State	4/0	FA 07	OFA DALL 05	Trying to make it as third tight end. Still needs to develop.
80	Fasano, Anthony (TE)	6-4	258	2	Notre Dame	16/4	D2 06	D2 DALL 06	Was a disappointment last year as a rookie; needs to produce.
83	**Glenn, Terry**	**5-11**	**195**	**12**	**Ohio State**	**15/14**	**T,GB 03**	**D1 NE 96**	**Had great year in 2006, but how will he do without Parcells?**
17	Hurd, Sam	6-2	195	R	Northern Illinois	15/2	OFA 06	OFA DALL 06	Was a nice surprise last year as an undrafted free agent.
81	**Owens, Terrell**	**6-3**	**224**	**12**	**Tennessee-Chattanooga**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D3 SF 96**	**Still explosive. Had 13 touchdowns and 17 dropped passes last year.**
85	Rector, Jamaica	5-10	186	1	Northwest Missouri State	1/0	FA 07	DALL 05	A Parcells project who might find his way off the roster with the coach gone.
86	Stanback, Isaiah	6-2	213	R	Washington	0/0	D4 07	D4 SF 07	Rookie making transition from quarterback to receiver.
87	Thorn, Andy (TE)	6-5	250	1	Northern Iowa	1/0	FA 07	OFA PHA 05	Will try to make the roster as a third tight end.
15	Urban, Jerheme	6-3	212	3	Trinity	0/0	FA 07	OFA SEA 03	Another Parcells project who might find it hard to stick.
82	**Witten, Jason (TE)**	**6-5**	**265**	**5**	**Tennessee**	**16/15**	**D3 03**	**D3 DALL 03**	**The three-time Pro Bowler caught only one touchdown pass in 2006.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
76	**Adams, Flozell (T)**	**6-7**	**340**	**10**	**Michigan State**	**16/16**	**D2 98**	**D2 DALL 98**	**Is in his contract year, so expect a strong campaign.**
67	Berger, Joe (G/C)	6-5	315	3	Michigan Tech	0/0	W,MIA 06	D6 CARO 05	A project the Cowboys hope will develop like Colombo.
75	**Colombo, Marc (T)**	**6-8**	**320**	**6**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D1 CHI 02**	**Was the team's biggest surprise not named Romo in 2006.**
66	Darilek, Trey (G/C)	6-5	310	3	Texas-El Paso	0/0	FA 07	D4 PHA 04	Competing for a job as a backup on crowded line.
70	**Davis, Leonard (G)**	**6-6**	**366**	**7**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**UFA,ARIZ 07**	**D1 ARIZ 01**	**Will play guard in 2007, but could be left tackle in 2008.**
68	Free, Doug (T)	6-6	324	R	Northern Illinois	0/	D4 07	D4 DALL 07	Rookie fourth-round pick not expected to have impact 2007.
65	**Gurode, Andre (C)**	**6-4**	**312**	**6**	**Colorado**	**16/16**	**D2 02**	**D2 DALL 02**	**Now that he has big contract, will he continue to stay focused?**
63	**Kosier, Kyle (G)**	**6-5**	**305**	**6**	**Arizona State**	**16/16**	**UFA,DET 06**	**D7 SF 02**	**Proved to be a solid replacement for Larry Allen in 2006.**
79	Marten, James (T)	6-7	309	R	Boston College	0/0	D3 07	D3 DALL 07	Rookie third-round pick who is at least a year away from impact.
77	McQuistan, Pat (T)	6-6	315	2	Weber State	1/0	D7 06	D7 DALL 06	Started out at tackle, but could challenge Kosier at guard in 2007.
69	Molinaro, Jim (T)	6-6	310	4	Notre Dame	1/0	FA 07	D6 WSH 04	Will have to beat our pair of rookies for backup job.
71	Procter, Cory (G)	6-4	305	2	Montana	0/0	FA 05	OFA DET 05	Will likely serve as reserve guard and backup center.
62	Rivera, Marco (G)	6-4	309	12	Penn State	16/16	UFA,GB 05	D6 GB 96	Expected to retire because of continuing back problems.
RUNNING BACKS									
34	**Anderson, Deon (FB)**	**5-10**	**243**	**R**	**Connecticut**	**0/0**	**D6 07**	**D6 DALL 07**	**Will compete for starting fullback job as a rookie.**
24	Barber, Marion	6-0	220	3	Minnesota	16/1	D4 05	D4 DALL 05	May move from being third-down back to full-time back.
46	Hoyte, Oliver (FB/LB)	6-3	250	2	North Carolina State	12/6	OFA 06	OFA DALL 06	Hit a wall after nice transition from linebacker to fullback.
21	**Jones, Julius**	**5-10**	**211**	**4**	**Notre Dame**	**16/16**	**D2 04**	**D2 DALL 04**	**Has not proved to be special and could be in last year with Cowboys.**
39	Polite, Lousaka (FB)	6-0	248	3	Pittsburgh	12/0	FA 06	OFA DALL 04	Days are numbered with the Cowboys drafting a fullback.
28	*Thompson, Tyson	6-1	220	3	San Jose State	7/0	OFA 05	OFA DALL 05	Must find a role in the regular offense to stick another year.
QUARTERBACKS									
14	Johnson, Brad	6-5	225	15	Florida State	15/14	FA 07	D9 MINN 92	A veteran backup who can win games if Romo goes down.
9	**Romo, Tony**	**6-2**	**225**	**5**	**Eastern Illinois**	**16/10**	**OFA 03**	**OFA DALL 03**	**Was a surprise last year. Now must prove he is for real and a long term answer.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
72	Bowen, Stephen (E)	6-5	300	2	Hofstra	1/0	FA 06	OFA DALL 06	Faces tough battle for backup job.
99	**Canty, Chris (E)**	**6-7**	**300**	**3**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**D4 05**	**D4 DALL 05**	**Had minimal impact in 2006, but must improve production or could lose his job.**
95	**Ferguson, Jason (NT)**	**6-3**	**310**	**11**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**UFA,NYJ 05**	**D7 NYJ 97**	**Was the anchor of the line in 2006, but how will he be without Parcells?**
97	Hatcher, Jason (E)	6-6	295	2	Grambling	14/0	D3 06	D3 DALL 06	Showed flashes as a rusher last year. Needs to put it together.
90	Ratliff, Jay (E)	6-4	305	3	Auburn	15/0	D7 05	D7 DALL 05	Also showed potential as a situational rusher until slowed by injuries.
96	**Spears, Marcus (E)**	**6-4**	**298**	**3**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 DALL 05**	**Parcells is gone, so there are no more excuses for limited production from former first round pick.**
60	Stanley, Montavious (NT)	6-2	313	2	Louisville	3/0	W,JAX 06	D6 DALL 06	Late-round pick in '06, could win backup job with better play.
LINEBACKERS									
51	**Ayodele, Akin (I)**	**6-2**	**250**	**6**	**Purdue**	**16/16**	**UFA,JAX 06**	**D3 JAX 02**	**Was the team's best inside linebacker last year after signing as free agent.**
57	Burnett, Kevin (O)	6-3	240	3	Tennessee	16/0	D2 05	D2 DALL 05	Has yet to show why the Cowboys drafted him as second pick in 2005.
54	Carpenter, Bobby (O)	6-3	257	2	Ohio State	13/1	D1 06	D1 DALL 06	Struggled as rookie and now must find new position.
98	***Ellis, Greg (O)**	**6-6**	**270**	**10**	**North Carolina**	**9/9**	**D1 98**	**D1 DALL 98**	**Future will be determined on whether he comes back from torn Achilles tendon.**
53	Glymph, Junior (O)	6-6	272	4	Carson-Newman	3/0	FA 06	OFA GB 04	Showed glimpses as a pass rusher, but is no full-time linebacker.
56	**James, Bradie (I)**	**6-2**	**250**	**5**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**D4 03**	**D4 DALL 03**	**Led the team in tackles in 2006, but gave up too many plays in coverage.**
93	Spencer, Anthony (O)	6-3	265	R	Purdue	0/0	D1 07	D1 DALL 07	Rookie draft pick is insurance for Ellis and gives team third pass rusher.
94	**Ware, DeMarcus (O)**	**6-4**	**257**	**3**	**Troy State**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 DALL 05**	**Can't wait to see how many sacks he registers in Wade Phillips scheme.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
38	Ball, Alan (CB)	6-1	182	R	Illinois	0/0	D7 07	D7 DALL 07	Not much is expected, but rookie could make impact on special teams.
40	Brown, Courtney (CB)	6-1	200	R	Cal Poly-SLO	0/0	D7 07	D7 DALL 07	Could have future at cornerback, but 2007 impact will be on special teams.
36	Butler, Quincy (CB)	6-1	190	1	Texas Christian	1/0	FA 06	OFA DALL 06	Competing for backup job in crowded secondary.
29	Davis, Keith (S)	5-11	205	5	Sam Houston	15/6	FA 04	OFA DALL 02	Has now accepted his role as strictly a special teams performer.
37	Elam, Abram (S)	6-0	210	2	Kent State	15/0	FA 06	OFA MIA 05	Will have to make mark on special teams since safety spots are filled.
26	Glenn, Aaron (CB)	5-9	185	14	Texas A&M	16/1	FA 05	D1 NYJ 94	Been around forever, but maybe not much longer.
27	**Hamlin, Ken (S)**	**6-2**	**209**	**5**	**Arkansas**	**16/16**	**UFA,SEA 07**	**D2 SEA 03**	**Expected to play centerfield and quarterback the defense.**
42	**Henry, Anthony (CB)**	**6-1**	**208**	**7**	**South Florida**	**16/16**	**UFA,CLV 05**	**D4 CLV 01**	**Slowed by knee injuries in 2006; could soon be moved to safety.**
33	Jones, Nathan (CB)	5-10	192	4	Rutgers	4/0	D7 04	D7 DALL 04	Mainly a special teams performer; will have tough time making the team in 2007.
41	**Newman, Terence (CB)**	**5-11**	**195**	**5**	**Kansas State**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 DALL 03**	**A Pro Bowl caliber player, who is entering contract year. Look out.**
35	Reeves, Jacques (CB)	5-11	192	4	Purdue	13/0	D7 04	D7 DALL 04	A career backup, who might be too expensive to keep.
23	Thomas, Joey (CB)	6-1	190	3	Montana State	0/0	FA 07	D3 GB 04	Doesn't have too many more chances to stay in the league.
25	Watkins, Patrick (S)	6-5	211	2	Florida State	14/9	D5 06	D5 DALL 06	Will have to make due on special teams after disappointing as starter last year
31	**Williams, Roy (S)**	**6-0**	**229**	**6**	**Oklahoma**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 DALL 02**	**Will benefit from Wade Phillips keeping him close to the line of scrimmage.**
SPECIALISTS									
6	Folk, Nick (K)	6-1	225	R	Arizona	0/0	D6 07	D6 DALL 07	Has a big leg and could be weapon on kickoffs as well as field goals.
7	Gramatica, Martin (K)	5-8	175	9	Kansas State	11/0	FA 06	D3 TB 99	Only chance of making it is if Folk can't handle field goals.
91	Ladouceur, L.P. (LS)	6-4	255	3	California	16/0	FA 05	OFA NO 05	A solid deep snapper who has job in Dallas for years to come.
1	McBriar, Mat (P)	6-1	223	4	Hawaii	16/0	FA 04	OFA DEN 03	Is indeed a weapon as a punter. Flips the field with booming kicks.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; SD=Supplemental Draft.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Michael Jefferson (Montana State), Jerard Rabb (Boise State), Jamel Richardson (CFL, Victor Valley); TE Rodney Hannah (Houston); OG Robert Turner (New Mexico); C Steve Rissler (Florida); QBs Matt Baker (1, North Carolina), Matt Moore (Oregon State); RBs Jackie Battle (Houston), Alonzo Coleman (Hampton); DE Marcus Smith (Arizona); DTs Remi Ayodele (1, Oklahoma), Ola Dagunduro (Nebraska); LBs Dedrick Harrington (Missouri), Alex Obomese (Texas-El Paso), Blair Phillips (Oregon), John Saldi (1, Texas Tech); Ss Damarius Bilbo (1, Georgia Tech), Jasper Johnson (Central Arkansas); P Sam Paulescu Paulescu (CFL, Oregon State)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Offensive coordinator Jason Garrett was hired with the expectation that he will eventually replace Wade Phillips as head coach. Garrett will not get that opportunity if he doesn't succeed as architect of the Cowboys' offense.

*Receivers Terrell Owens and Terry Glenn will be 33 at the start of the season. The Cowboys did not address the receiver position in the draft. An injury to either one of them could be devastating for the offense.

*Although he made the Pro Bowl again last season, strong safety Roy Williams' reputation took a huge hit because he gave up so many plays in coverage. The Cowboys plan to use him close to the line of scrimmage where he is at his disruptive best and take him out of coverage in 2007.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Tony Romo

Tony Romo lived a dream and a nightmare all in one season.

He came out of nowhere to become quarterback of the Cowboys. He did no wrong on the field early, leading the Cowboys to a 5-1 record. However, his golden carriage turned into a pumpkin late in the season, concluding with the embarrassing bobbled snap to key the wild-card playoff loss to the Seahawks.

The Cowboys saw enough in Romo to believe he is the team's quarterback of the future. They backed those beliefs up in the draft by passing on Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn. The Cowboys considered Quinn, but decided they didn't want to mess up team chemistry or rattle Romo's confidence.

"It wasn't tough at all," owner Jerry Jones said. "All it did was have us look and say, 'Hey, we've got an instinctive player. We've got a player with a skill level and accuracy. He's competed at this level. He deserves an opportunity. He's earned it.'"

Now its up to Romo to grow into a big-time quarterback for the Cowboys or the team will forever be reminded what they gave up for this former undrafted free agent from Eastern Illinois.

Now Phillips is in Dallas and Ware gets the benefit of his blitz-happy coaching style. Ware had 19.5 sacks the past two seasons while serving as a rusher and covering backs out of the backfield. He will have only one mission in 2006, so look for his sack numbers to rise.

He will be helped by the return of Greg Ellis, who tore his left Achilles tendon last season. Add in first draft pick Anthony Spencer and the Cowboys have three quality pass rushers to help a defense that recorded only 34 sacks last season.

Inside linebacker Bradie James and Akin Ayodele led the team with 132 and 106 tackles, respectively. But they will have to be better against the pass, especially James, who lost confidence last season when teams started singling him out in coverage.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

The Cowboys believe they will be better here because Pro Bowl strong safety Roy Williams will be used close to the line of scrimmage, where he is at his disruptive best, and not be made a liability in pass coverage. The Cowboys can do that because they finally have a free safety that can handle the middle of the field, with the free-agent signing of Ken Hamlin.

The cornerbacks are led by Terence Newman, who has had Pro Bowl-caliber seasons the past two years, although he has yet to receive an invitation to Hawaii. Anthony Henry, who struggled with a knee injury last season, is healthy and should be better in 2007. He will eventually move to safety. But at 31, the Cowboys think he can still be strong at cornerback. There is a concern at nickel back where Aaron Glenn will be 35 next season.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Cowboys believe they have the league's best punter in Pro Bowler Mat McBriar. Veteran kicker Martin Gramatica will be tested by sixth-round pick Nick Folk, who is strong on kickoffs.

L.P. Ladouceur is solid as the deep snapper, but there will be change at holder following quarterback Tony Romo's bobble in Seattle.

Terence Newman is a game-breaking punt returner. The Cowboys like their options at kickoff return between receivers Isaiah Stanback and Miles Austin and running back Tyson Thompson.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

Parcells' four years in Dallas have to be considered disappointing. He was brought in to take the Cowboys to the Super Bowl, making the playoffs twice and losing in the first round each time. But the Cowboys are better off as an organization than before Parcells arrived. Phillips may be in his first year, but this will be no honeymoon. The Cowboys are expecting to win big now.

RATING: Plus 1

— Clarence E. Hill Jr.

2006 RESULTS

Record: 9-8

Sep. 10	at Jacksonville	17-24
Sep. 17	WASHINGTON	27-10
Sep. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 1	at Tennessee	45-14
Oct. 8	at Philadelphia	24-38
Oct. 15	HOUSTON	34- 6
Oct. 23	N.Y. GIANTS	22-36
Oct. 29	at Carolina	35-14
Nov. 5	at Washington	19-22
Nov. 12	at Arizona	27-10
Nov. 19	INDIANAPOLIS	21-14
Nov. 23	TAMPA BAY	38-10
Dec. 3	at N.Y. Giants	23-20
Dec. 10	NEW ORLEANS	17-42
Dec. 16	at Atlanta	38-28
Dec. 25	PHILADELPHIA	7-23
Dec. 31	DETROIT	31-39
Jan. 6	at Seattle	20-21

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	INDIANAPOLIS (Thu.)	7:00
Aug. 18	DENVER (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 25	at Houston (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 30	at Minnesota (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	N.Y. GIANTS	7:15
Sep. 16	at Miami	4:05
Sep. 23	at Chicago	7:15
Sep. 30	ST. LOUIS	12:00
Oct. 8	at Buffalo (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 14	NEW ENGLAND	3:15
Oct. 21	MINNESOTA	12:00
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	at Philadelphia	8:15
Nov. 11	at N.Y. Giants	4:15
Nov. 18	WASHINGTON	12:00
Nov. 22	N.Y. JETS (Thu.)	3:15
Nov. 29	GREEN BAY (Thu.)	7:15
Dec. 9	at Detroit	1:00
Dec. 16	PHILADELPHIA	3:15
Dec. 22	at Carolina (Sat.)	8:15
Dec. 30	at Washington	1:00

NEW YORK GIANTS

2006 RECORD: 8-9 | STADIUM: Giants Stadium, 80,242, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 3rd

NFC EAST | www.giants.com

AT A GLANCE

Giants Stadium
East Rutherford, N.Y. 07073
(201) 935-8111

TRAINING CAMP:
University at Albany; Albany, NY

COACH:
Tom Coughlin, 4th year with Giants (25-25), 12th year as NFL head coach (97-89)

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/ GENERAL MANAGER:
Jerry Reese

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Dave Gettleman

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Jerry Shay

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Kevin Gilbride	Offensive coordinator	18	4
Chris Palmer	Quarterbacks	18	1
Pat Flaherty	Offensive line	8	4
Dave DeGuglielmo	Assistant offensive line	4	4
Jerald Ingram	Running backs	13	4
Mike Sullivan	Receivers	6	4
Michael Pope	Tight ends	25	17
Sean Ryan	Offensive assistant	1	1
Steve Spagnuolo	Defensive coordinator	9	1
Mike Waufle	Defensive line	10	4
Bill Sheridan	Linebackers	3	3
Peter Giunta	Secondary	17	2
David Merritt	Assistant secondary	7	4
Andre Curtis	Defensive quality control	2	2
Tom Quinn	Special teams	2	2
Thomas McGaughey	Special teams assistant.	5	1
Jerry Palmieri	Strength & Conditioning	13	4
Markus Paul	Strength & Conditioning	10	1

Coughlin Under the Gun in Big Apple

In some NFL cities, fans would build a monument for, or at least name a street after, any head coach who led their team to two straight playoff appearances.

Tom Coughlin has done that with the Giants. But after last year, many fans wanted him to leave the building and take a one-way street out of town.

Coughlin enters his fourth year as Giants head coach, having gotten a one-year extension after his 8-8 club limped into the 2006 post-season. His future hinges on how his team does in a season that better befits a first-year coach than one possibly in his last year.

New general manager Jerry Reese has vowed to have a younger, faster, healthier team in 2007. In so doing, he has jettisoned some veterans who, along with the retired Tiki Barber, might have helped prolong Coughlin's stay.

Both coordinators are new, although one, Kevin Gilbride, has been on Coughlin's staff from the start as Eli Manning's quarterback coach. Free agency did not corral any big names as Reese concentrated on the draft — he had a solid one — and improving the younger players already on the roster.

The Giants are not calling this a rebuilding year, and perhaps it's not in the strictest sense. But it is a retooling year, one that could endure some rocky moments before any smoothing out.

The question is whether Coughlin can survive any rocky times. He maintains his approach of strict discipline and endless preparation, which nevertheless has produced some very undisciplined, sloppy performances.

Now he must rely on an improved Manning, a revised running game and a revamped defense. "Revised" and "revamped" are not necessarily words a coach on shaky ground wants to hear attached to his club.

Coughlin's Giants are not void of talent. Getting that talent to play better than it has in the past, however, could be a formidable task. Coughlin already is considered by some as a lame-duck coach.

COACHING

No one puts more time and care into preparation than Coughlin, yet there are times when his team appears utterly confused on the field. That included some of the in-game decisions of his deposed coordinators, John Hufnagel and Tim Lewis. Coughlin jettisoned the pass-happy Hufnagel in favor of Gilbride with one game left last season, then fired Lewis and brought in former Eagles linebacker coach Steve Spagnuolo in the off-season. Some of Barber's exit comments stung the head coach, who thought he coached the running back's best years. But Coughlin's style can irritate, especially if there aren't many wins to show for it.

RATING: 7

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
CB Aaron Ross

The No. 1 draft pick will be counted on to play the press style that new coordinator Steve Spagnuolo will implement. Ross has the size and speed needed to survive in this system, and may be thrown into the breach.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
DT Marcus Bell, RB Reuben Droughns, LB Kawika Mitchell, S Michael Stone, QB Anthony Wright

KEY LOSS:
RB Tiki Barber (16/16)*
While some of his locker room banter may not be missed, his ability to dominate a game with his running and receiving certainly will be. Replacements Brandon Jacobs and Reuben Droughns don't have the big-play potential of the retired Barber.

OTHER LOSSES
LB LaVar Arrington (6/5), WR Tim Carter (16/8), OT Steve Edwards (2/2), LB Carlos Emmons (12/12), K Jay Feely (16/0), OL Lewis Kelly (0/0), RB/KR Chad Morton (15/0), T Luke Petitgout (9/9), TE Visanthe Shiancoe (16/4), LB Brandon Short (9/9), CB Frank Walker (11/1), T Bob Whitfield (16/7)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
17; 8 offense, 9 defense, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

QUARTERBACKS

After a second straight hot start, Manning tailed off as the season progressed, so much so that it took a Herculean effort by Barber against Washington in the season finale to lift the Giants to the playoff spot they seemingly all but secured around mid-season. He had his best completion percentage of 57.7, but at midseason it was more than 60 percent. Fifteen of his 24 touchdown tosses came before the halfway point. Not only must his passing improve, but his huddle presence also must advance. The Giants brought in journeyman Anthony Wright to be the backup, meaning hefty lefty Jared Lorenzen and Tim Hasselbeck, last year's reserves, probably will fight it out for the No. 3 spot.

RATING: 7.5

RUNNING BACKS

Brandon Jacobs was considered something of a novelty — a 265-pound running back — when the Giants drafted him in 2005. Now he is considered the starter, replacing the greatest running back in team history. Jacobs showed he could handle more than short yardage last year when he rushed for 423 yards on 96 carries while Barber rested. Reuben Droughns, who rushed for 1,000-plus yards for Denver (so does everyone) and for Cleveland (an accomplishment), will support Jacobs. Neither is a true third-down back. Derrick Ward could be, if he can ever stay healthy. The power-running game could signal the end for finesse-blocking fullback Jim Finn.

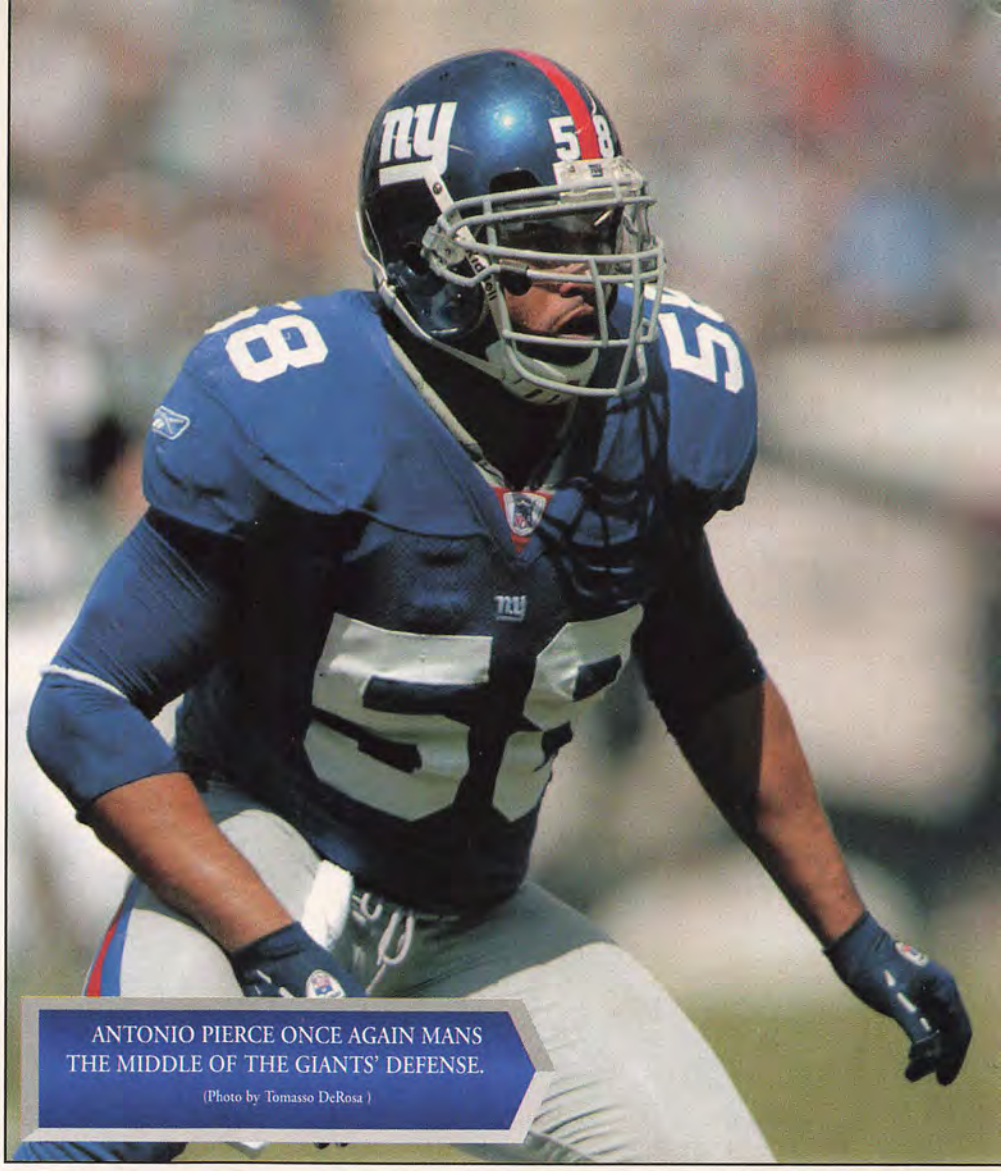
RATING: 6.5

RECEIVERS

It's amazing how Manning's decline coincided with the loss of dependable wideout Amani Toomer to a season-ending knee injury. Toomer, 33, will be back for a 12th season, but the Giants took another step towards eventually replacing him by drafting Steve Smith on the second round. Plaxico Burress' plusses continue to far outweigh his negatives as Manning's top target. Sinorice Moss, last year's second-round pick, had his rookie year virtually wiped out by injuries.

Jeremy Shockey's myriad of foot and ankle injuries keep him from being the deeper threat he was as a rookie. But he's still a very valuable receiver and a better blocker than most people think. There is no established backup tight end, so first-year man Darcy Johnson and draftee Kevin Boss will tussle for the job.

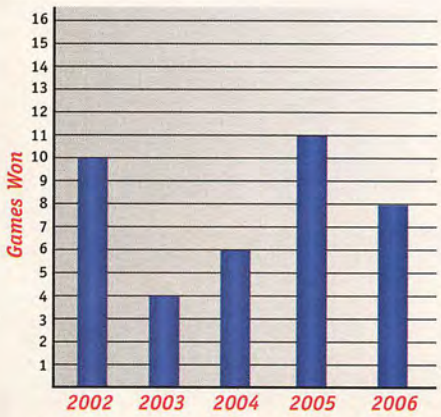
RATING: 7.5



ANTONIO PIERCE ONCE AGAIN MANS THE MIDDLE OF THE GIANTS' DEFENSE.

(Photo by Tomasso DeRosa)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2002, 2005, 2006*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Luke Petitgout was having his best season when he suffered the broken leg that ended his year and eventually his career with the Giants. The release of Petitgout opened up the vital left tackle spot. Versatile David Diehl should be adequate there if second-year man Guy Whimper doesn't win the job, allowing Diehl to return to left guard. The rest of the line is solid with right tackle Kareem McKenzie, guards Chris Snee and Rich Seubert and center Shaun O'Hara. Grey Ruegamer is a veteran backup inside while the Giants were looking for a veteran tackle to augment that area. Adam Koets, the only draftee added, is a project at left tackle, as was Whimper a year ago.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Michael Strahan says he's recovered from the Lisfranc injury that dry-docked him last year. With Justin Tuck also back from the same foot problem and Osi Umenyiora and Adrian Awasom also available, the Giants felt they could switch Mathias Kiwanuka to linebacker. There are bodies at tackle, too, with last year's rookie find Barry Cofield and former Lion Marcus Bell on the nose and Fred Robbins — who quietly had a great 2006 season — William Joseph and draftee Jay Alford at the off-tackle. The Giants seemed excited about getting the active Alford in the third round.

RATING: 8

LINEBACKERS

For the second straight year, this has been the greatest area of off-season intrigue. Gone from last year's group are LaVar Arrington, Brandon Short and Carlos Emmons, who had 26 starts among them. That's a lot of playing time to replace. The

Giants Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
89	Boss, Kevin (TE)	6-6	253	R	Western Oregon	0/0	D5 07	D5 NYG 07	Division II pass-catching tight end must improve his blocking skills.
17	**Burress, Plaxico**	**6-5**	**232**	**8**	**Michigan State**	**15/15**	**UFA,PITT 05**	**D1 PITT 00**	**Can be pain in neck to coaches, but much bigger pain to the opposition.**
15	Jennings, Michael	5-11	181	2	Florida State	7/0	FA 06	OFA NE 04	Has great speed, elusiveness, but must show consistency to make it.
84	Johnson, Darcy (TE)	6-5	252	1	Central Florida	1/0	FA 06	OFA NYG 06	Spent most of first year on practice squad; has shot to become No. 2 tight end.
83	Moss, Sinorice	5-8	185	2	Miami	6/0	D2 06	D2 NYG 06	Thigh injury ruined rookie year; should win slot receiver spot if healthy.
80	**Shockey, Jeremy (TE)**	**6-5**	**251**	**6**	**Miami**	**15/15**	**D1 02**	**D1 NYG 02**	**Lightning rod in locker room, but still one of league's best tight ends.**
12	Smith, Steve	5-11	195	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D2 07	D2 NYG 07	Southern Cal rookie compares favorably to Toomer, whom he eventually may replace.
81	***Toomer, Amani**	**6-3**	**203**	**12**	**Michigan**	**8/8**	**D2 96**	**D2 NYG 96**	**Veteran says he'll bounce back from knee injury and remain productive.**
85	Tyree, David	6-0	206	5	Syracuse	16/1	D6 03	D6 NYG 03	Possession receiver better acknowledged for his special teams exploits.
87	Watts, Darius	6-2	190	3	Marshall	0/0	FA 06	D2 DEN 04	Former Bronco signed late last season has outside shot at sticking.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
66	**Diehl, David (T/G)**	**6-5**	**319**	**5**	**Illinois**	**16/16**	**D5 03**	**D5 NYG 03**	**If no one better emerges, he'll be adequate left tackle; otherwise, he's the left guard.**
71	Dunn, Jonathan (T)	6-7	324	2	Virginia Tech	0/0	FA 06	D7 CLV 05	Practice squad player from last year will be in mix for backup tackle spots.
61	Koets, Adam (T)	6-5	300	R	Oregon State	0/0	D6 07	D6 NYG 07	Sixth-round draft pick has good feet; must bulk up for run-blocking duty.
64	*Lentz, Matthews (G)	6-6	320	2	Michigan	0/0	OFA 06	OFA NYG 06	Spent last season on injured reserve with elbow problem; looks for interior backup role.
67	**McKenzie, Kareem (T)**	**6-6**	**327**	**7**	**Penn State**	**15/15**	**UFA,NYJ 05**	**D3 NYJ 01**	**Veteran is solid on the right side, especially blocking for the run.**
60	**O'Hara, Shaun (C)**	**6-3**	**303**	**8**	**Rutgers**	**15/15**	**UFA,CLV 04**	**OFA CLV 00**	**Giants made sure they kept the quarterback of their line off free-agent market.**
65	Ruegamer, Grey (C/G)	6-4	299	9	Arizona State	16/1	UFA,GB 06	D3 MIA 99	Versatility to play either guard or center prompted his re-signing.
69	**Seubert, Rich (G)**	**6-3**	**310**	**7**	**Western Illinois**	**14/3**	**OFA 01**	**OFA NYG 01**	**Unbelievable comeback from broken leg; could wind up with starting job.**
76	**Snee, Chris (G)**	**6-3**	**317**	**4**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**D2 04**	**D2 NYG 04**	**Coughlin's son-in-law has reached all-star status as all-around blocker.**
79	Whimper, Guy (T)	6-5	302	2	East Carolina	8/0	D4 06	D4 NYG 06	Drafted on athletic ability last year; could be the left tackle this season.
RUNNING BACKS									
44	Bradshaw, Ahmad	5-9	198	R	Marshall	0/0	D7 07	D7 NYG 07	Smallish seventh-round draft pick could fill vacant third-down role.
24	Douglas, Robert (FB)	6-1	230	1	Memphis	0/0	FA 06	OFA TENN 05	Signed late in 2007 as insurance at fullback; long-shot to hang around.
22	Droughns, Reuben	5-11	220	7	Oregon	14/12	T,NYG 07	D3 DET 00	Former Bronco/Brown figures to get about 40 percent of the carries.
20	**Finn, Jim (FB)**	**6-0**	**245**	**8**	**Pennsylvania**	**16/11**	**FA 03**	**D7 CHI 99**	**Could be starter, could be gone; change in running styles hurts him.**
27	**Jacobs, Brandon**	**6-4**	**264**	**3**	**Southern Illinois**	**15/0**	**D4 05**	**D4 NYG 05**	**The whole world will be watching his attempt to replace the Tiki legend.**
34	*Ward, Derrick	5-11	228	4	Ottawa, Kansas	8/0	FA 04	D7 NYJ 04	Could fill voids on third down and in return game, if he can stay healthy.
QUARTERBACKS									
8	Hasselbeck, Tim	6-1	214	6	Boston College	0/0	W,WSH 05	OFA BUFF 01	Went from No. 2 to No. 3 last year, making his Giants future uncertain.
13	Lorenzen, Jared	6-4	285	3	Kentucky	2/0	OFA 04	OFA NYG 04	Two-for-two on third-and-1 quarterback sneaks, his only NFL quarterback experience.
10	**Manning, Eli**	**6-4**	**225**	**4**	**Mississippi**	**16/16**	**T,SD 04**	**D1 SD 04**	**Without Barber, the pressure will be even greater for him to make plays.**
2	Wright, Anthony	6-1	211	8	South Carolina	4/0	UFA,CIN 07	OFA PITT 99	Journeyman whose experience figures to make him Manning's backup in 2007.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
93	Adams, Titus (T)	6-4	305	1	Nebraska	0/0	FA 06	OFA NYJ 06	Signed off Jets practice squad last year; will vie for backup tackle spot.
73	Alford, Jay (T)	6-3	304	R	Penn State	0/0	D3 07	D3 NYG 07	The Giants like the active inside pass rush he demonstrated at Penn State.
95	Awasom, Adrian (E)	6-5	280	3	North Texas	10/0	FA 06	OFA NYG 05	Showed enough as backup end to allow Kiwanuka switch to linebacker.
99	*Bell, Marcus (T)	6-2	325	7	Memphis	13/7	FA 07	D4 ARIZ 01	Free-agent pickup from Detroit figures to spell Cofield at nose tackle.
96	**Cofield, Barry (T)**	**6-4**	**306**	**2**	**Northwestern**	**16/16**	**D4 06**	**D4 NYG 06**	**Rookie find played well on nose, although he's best suited for off-tackle.**
94	Joseph, William (T)	6-5	308	5	Miami	16/3	D1 03	D1 NYG 03	Time may be running out for this disappointing onetime No. 1 draft pick.
98	**Robbins, Fred (T)**	**6-4**	**317**	**8**	**Wake Forest**	**16/16**	**UFA,MINN 04**	**D2 MINN 00**	**Giants thought his numerous big plays should have landed him in Hawaii.**
75	Seawright, Jonas (T)	6-6	335	2	North Carolina	9/0	FA 06	OFA NYG 05	Talks a good game, but did not show much when he got his opportunities.
92	***Strahan, Michael (E)**	**6-5**	**255**	**15**	**Texas Southern**	**9/9**	**D2 93**	**D2 NYG 93**	**Injuries cut short two of last three seasons, but he's back for a 15th.**
91	*Tuck, Justin (E)	6-5	274	3	Notre Dame	6/0	D3 05	D3 NYG 05	Just when he earns more playing time, he gets hurt; a talent when healthy.
72	**Umenyiora, Osi (E)**	**6-3**	**261**	**5**	**Troy State**	**11/11**	**D2 03**	**D2 NYG 03**	**New system should allow him to be even better pass rusher from outside.**
LINEBACKERS									
57	Blackburn, Chase (M)	6-3	247	3	Akron	16/0	OFA 05	OFA NYG 05	More than adequate backup to Pierce and a good special teams player.
52	Davis, James (O)	6-1	240	4	West Virginia	0/0	FA 07	D5 DET 03	Former starter in Detroit looks for backup job after not playing in 2006.
51	DeOssie, Zak (O)	6-4	249	R	Brown	0/0	D4 07	D4 NYG 07	Son of former Giant, Steve, figures to help first on all special teams.
97	**Kiwanuka, Mathias (O)**	**6-5**	**265**	**2**	**Boston College**	**16/9**	**D1 06**	**D1 NYG 06**	**His transition from defensive end to strong-side backer could be key to defense.**
58	**Pierce, Antonio (M)**	**6-1**	**238**	**7**	**Arizona**	**16/16**	**UFA,WSH 05**	**OFA WSH 01**	**Always around the football linebacker, who also is a coach on the field.**
55	**Mitchell, Kawika (O)**	**6-1**	**253**	**5**	**South Florida**	**16/16**	**UFA,KC 07**	**D2 KC 03**	**Former Chiefs middle linebacker will play on weak side unless Kiwanuka move fails.**
48	Smith, Tyson (O)	6-2	240	2	Iowa State	3/0	FA 06	OFA BLT 05	Special teams play earned him spot last year, will have to do so again.
53	Torbor, Reggie (O)	6-2	250	4	Auburn	16/3	D4 04	D4 NYG 04	One-time young hope of the linebacking corps has about run out of chances.
59	Wilkinson, Gerris (O)	6-3	231	2	Georgia Tech	16/2	D3 06	D6 NYG 06	Will contest Mitchell for playing time on weak side as well as in nickel.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
33	Bell, Jason (CB)	6-0	196	7	UCLA	15/1	UFA,HOU 06	OFA DALL 01	Special teams play and ability to fill in on corner make him valuable sub.
37	Butler, James (S)	6-3	215	3	Georgia Tech	14/0	OFA 05	OFA NYG 05	Fell into coaches' doghouse, but gets new start with new coordinator.
36	Cobbs, R.J. (CB)	5-11	190	1	Massachusetts	0/0	FA 06	OFA MINN 06	Signed late last year; faces uphill battle to make team this time.
47	**Demps, Will (S)**	**6-0**	**208**	**6**	**San Diego State**	**16/16**	**UFA,BLT 06**	**OFA BLT 02**	**Came on in final few weeks as he made his way back from '05 knee surgery.**
35	Dockery, Kevin (CB)	5-8	188	2	Mississippi State	14/0	OFA 06	OFA NYG 06	Surprising rookie free agent wound up as nickel back; had two big picks.
43	Johnson, Michael (S)	6-2	207	R	Arizona	0/0	D7 07	D7 NYG 07	Size and range give this seventh-round pick from Arizona fighting chance.
29	**Madison, Sam (CB)**	**5-11**	**180**	**11**	**Louisville**	**12/12**	**FA 06**	**D2 MIA 97**	**Veteran expects his play to improve with new press-coverage defense.**
25	McQuarters, R.W. (CB)	5-10	194	10	Oklahoma State	16/10	UFA,DET 06	D1 SF 98	Played well in nickel, then as starting left cornerback after Webster went out.
31	Ross, Aaron (CB)	6-0	197	R	Texas	0/0	D1 07	D1 NYG 07	No. 1 pick figures to start in near future; helps on returns immediately.
44	Stone, Michael (S)	6-0	207	7	Memphis	2/0	UFA, HOU 07	D2 ARIZ 01	Like J. Bell, a versatile backup who also contributes on special teams.
41	*Underwood, E.J. (CB)	6-1	185	2	Pikeville	0/0	OFA 06	OFA NYG 06	Spent rookie season on injured reserve after opening some eyes in training camp.
23	***Webster, Corey (CB)**	**6-0**	**202**	**3**	**Louisiana State**	**12/10**	**D2 05**	**D2 NYG 05**	**Aggressiveness deteriorated as confidence was shattered in 2006.**
28	**Wilson, Gibril (S)**	**6-0**	**209**	**4**	**Tennessee**	**15/15**	**D5 04**	**D5 NYG 04**	**Has instinct to make plays, which sometimes strays him from game plan.**
SPECIALISTS									
18	Feagles, Jeff (P)	6-1	215	20	Miami	16/0	UFA,SEA 03	OFA NE 88	His right leg just keeps on kicking — and dropping them inside the 20.
90	Kuehl, Ryan (LS)	6-5	276	10	Virginia	16/0	UFA,CLV 03	OFA SF 95	You never hear his name called, which for a long snapper is a good thing.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; PB=Plan B; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Brandon Mitchell (Massachusetts), Anthony Mix (1, Auburn), Brandon Myles (West Virginia), Marco Thomas (Western Illinois); TEs Charles Davis (1, Purdue), Michael Matthews (Georgia Tech); OTs Rob Austin (Troy), Gabe Hall (Texas Tech), Justin Jones (Central Arkansas); OGs Joel Klinger (Missouri), Ryan Keenan (Northwestern); C Todd Londot (1, Miami, Ohio); RBs DeCori Birmingham (1, Arkansas), Ryan Grant (1, Notre Dame), Cedric Humes (1, Virginia Tech); DEs Tommy Davis (1, North Carolina), Marquies Gunn (Auburn), Charrod Taylor (Georgia Southern); DT Sir Henry Anderson (1, Oregon State); LBs Jason Mitchell (Tennessee), Barry Robertson (Louisiana Tech); CB Gerrick McPherson (1, Maryland); S Craig Dahl (North Dakota State); PKs Josh Huston (1, Ohio State), Marc Hickok (Connecticut); P Cory Ohnesorge (Occidental)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

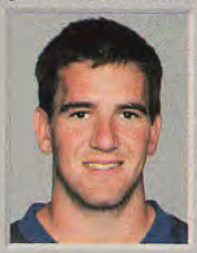
*The Giants need to start fast. Considering the shaky condition of their head coach, some early losses is certain to inspire the "Tom Must Go!" chants from the crowd and "Dump Coughlin!" stories in the media. And that only can lead to a lost season.

*New offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride will not have the luxury of calling a hand-off to Tiki Barber. But the Giants need to get a power running game going with Brandon Jacobs and Reuben Droughns to take some pressure off Eli Manning.

*The defense must adjust to the plans of new coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, who is implementing a more aggressive, more true 4-3 scheme than his predecessor, Tim Lewis. The scheme appears to better fit the personnel, but the adjustment could take some time.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Eli Manning



The man the Giants paid a fortune for in the 2004 draft is entering his third full season as a starter. The time has come for him to take that step into the elite class of quarterbacks — if indeed he has the goods to make that leap.

Manning appeared on his way to joining his older brother early last season when he and the Giants got off to a hot start. But by year's end he had regressed, floundering in his mechanics and most alarmingly shying away from the pass rush as he made his throws.

Enter Chris Palmer as the quarterbacks coach with a vow to find out what's been keeping Manning from becoming a topflight NFL quarterback.

"We've been doing a lot of footwork stuff," Manning said of his off-season regimen. "He's worked with me in different ways and with different drills, but we definitely accomplished some things."

The Giants remain fully committed to their quarterback, but there comes a time when the devotion must end if the production is not there. Manning certainly has a few more seasons to reward the Giants for their faith in him, but he needs to get started in that direction this season.

biggest news was moving Kiwanuka, last year's No. 1 draft pick, from end to strong-side linebacker. The Giants think he has the athleticism and smarts to make the transition. Kawika Mitchell, one of the few free-agent additions, and second-year man Gerris Wilkinson will duke it out on the weak side — unless the Kiwanuka experiment fails and Mitchell must shift to the strong side. Only first-time Pro Bowler Antonio Pierce is set in the middle, with Chase Blackburn as a competent backup. Ivy Leaguer Zak DeOssie will help first on special teams, although the Giants think their fourth-round pick could start someday.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

Spagnuolo's defensive plan will involve more press coverage, which sits well with veteran Sam Madison, entering his 11th year. That's the kind of defense he played in his big years with Miami. Corey Webster, whose confidence reached zero after a constant berating by the coaches last year, hopes to bounce back and join top draft pick Aaron Ross as the Giants' cornerbacks for the future. R.W. McQuarters proved a valuable pickup last year, while Kevin Dockery was a surprising free-agent find. Will Demps, coming off knee surgery, didn't start playing well at free safety until the final few weeks. Strong safety Gibril Wilson is another who should thrive under the more aggressive defensive scheme. He freelanced too much for Lewis' liking. The safety depth includes James Butler, Jason Bell and free-agent addition Michael Stone.

RATING: 6.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Giants must replace kicker Jay Feely, who fled to Miami, and probably will sign a veteran to do so. However, Jeff Feagles will return for his 20th season after showing last year he still had that inside-the-20 touch (27 vs. just three touchbacks). The departure of Chad Morton opens up the return jobs, with McQuarters, Ross and wide receiver Michael Jennings among the early applicants. Ryan Kuehl returns for another year as the long snapper, although DeOssie may someday claim the job his father Steve once held.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

Coughlin's status could cast a shadow over this entire season, prompting questions like "Will he be back?" and "Who will replace him?" The sanctity of the locker room will not insulate the players from these questions, if and when they start to be asked. That's why the beginning of the season will be very important to the Giants. A good start would at the very least delay, if not completely erase the necessity for those questions. A poor start would only hasten the turmoil caused by coaching uncertainty.

RATING: Minus 1

— Vinny DiTrani

2006 RESULTS

Record: 8-9

Sep. 10	INDIANAPOLIS	21-26
Sep. 17	at Philadelphia (OT)	30-24
Sep. 24	at Seattle	30-42
Oct. 1	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 8	WASHINGTON	19- 3
Oct. 15	at Atlanta	27-14
Oct. 23	at Dallas	36-22
Oct. 29	TAMPA BAY	17- 3
Nov. 5	HOUSTON	14-10
Nov. 12	CHICAGO	20-38
Nov. 20	at Jacksonville	10-26
Nov. 26	at Tennessee	21-24
Dec. 3	DALLAS	20-23
Dec. 10	at Carolina	27-13
Dec. 17	PHILADELPHIA	22-36
Dec. 24	NEW ORLEANS	7-30
Dec. 30	at Washington	34-28
Jan. 7	at Philadelphia	20-23

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	CAROLINA (Sat.)	8:00
Aug. 19	at Baltimore (Sun.)	8:00
Aug. 25	N.Y. JETS (Sat.)	8:00
Aug. 30	at New England (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 9	at Dallas	7:15
Sep. 16	GREEN BAY	1:00
Sep. 23	at Washington	4:15
Sep. 30	PHILADELPHIA	8:15
Oct. 7	N.Y. JETS	1:00
Oct. 15	at Atlanta (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 21	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Oct. 28	at Miami (London)	5:00
Nov. 4	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 11	DALLAS	4:15
Nov. 18	at Detroit	4:15
Nov. 25	MINNESOTA	1:00
Dec. 2	at Chicago	3:15
Dec. 9	at Philadelphia	1:00
Dec. 16	WASHINGTON	8:15
Dec. 23	at Buffalo	1:00
Dec. 29	NEW ENGLAND (Sat.)	8:15

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

2006 RECORD: 11-7 | STADIUM: Lincoln Financial Field, 65,352, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

NFC EAST | www.philadelphiaeagles.com

AT A GLANCE

NovaCare Complex
One NovaCare Way
Philadelphia, PA 19145
(215) 463-2500

TRAINING CAMP:
Lehigh University; Bethlehem, PA

COACH:
Andy Reid, 9th year with Eagles and as NFL head coach (88-54).

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Andy Reid

GENERAL MANAGER:
Tom Heckert

VICE PRESIDENT, PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Jason Licht

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Ryan Grigson

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Scott Cohen

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Marty Mornhinweg	*Offensive coordinator	13	5
Pat Shurmur	Quarterbacks	9	9
Juan Castillo	Offensive line	13	13
Ted Williams	Running backs	13	13
David Culley	Receivers	14	9
Tom Melvin	Tight ends	9	9
James Urban	Offensive Quality control	1	1
Jim Johnson	Defensive coordinator	22	9
Pete Jenkins	Defensive line	2	2
Sean McDermott	Linebackers	10	10
John Harbaugh	Secondary	10	10
Trent Walters	Secondary	12	4
Bill Shuey	Defensive quality control	5	5
Rory Segrest	Special teams coordinator	2	2
Jeff Nixon	Spec. teams quality control	1	1
Mike Wolf	Strength & Conditioning	16	13
Bob Rogucki	Strength & Conditioning	2	2

*Assistant head coach

Eagles Plan on Being Super Bowl Contenders Again

The Eagles' never-ending quest for sustainability has resulted in six playoff appearances in the last seven years and five division titles in the last six. Their knack for being able to remain in the Super Bowl hunt year after year has earned them a lot of respect around the NFL. But the ultimate prize has continued to elude them.

There is some suspicion that the window of opportunity is beginning to close, but they beg to differ.

"We have a franchise quarterback, a terrific nucleus and terrific veteran leadership," owner Jeff Lurie said. "I always try to analyze where we're at compared to other teams. And I don't think we're anywhere close to closing that window."

Buoyed by the healthy return of quarterback Donovan McNabb and the off-season acquisition of linebacker Takeo Spikes, the Eagles think they have the right stuff to win yet another division title and make a serious Super Bowl run. They've got 19 of their 22 starters from last year back and are hoping for significant contributions from some of their '06 draft picks, including defensive tackle Brodrick Bunkley and linebacker Chris Gocong.

"I think its important how we come together and how the chemistry develops and all of that," coach Andy Reid said. "But I think we have the personnel to (make it to the Super Bowl). If we take care of business and everybody works hard and pulls together and does their thing, we have as good a shot as anybody."

COACHING

Reid, who is entering his ninth season with the Eagles, is the winningest coach in franchise history. His even-keeled approach has rubbed off on his players and was a big reason for their late-season resurrection last year after a given-up-for-dead 5-6 start. Reid has a top-flight coaching staff, led by defensive coordinator Jim Johnson and offensive boss Marty Mornhinweg. Reid has done his own play-calling for most of his tenure in Philadelphia, but turned it over to Mornhinweg last November. Under Mornhinweg, the Eagles went to a more balanced offense that utilized the running of Brian Westbrook. The plan is for Mornhinweg to continue to do the play-calling this season.

RATING: 8.5

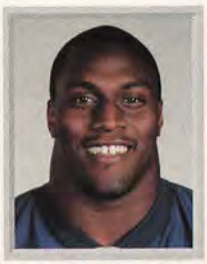
QUARTERBACKS

McNabb will turn 31 in November and is coming off a torn ACL that sidelined him for the last six games of '06. It was the third time in the last five years that McNabb has missed a significant chunk of a season with an injury, which prompted the Eagles to use the 36th pick in the April draft on an eventual heir, Kevin Kolb.

McNabb wasn't able to participate in the team's spring minicamp, but is expected to be ready for the start of training camp. The five-time Pro Bowler

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
LB Takeo Spikes



Spikes is two years removed from an Achilles injury, but the Eagles feel he is back to Pro Bowl form. The plan is to put him at weak-side linebacker, but he could be moved to the strong side if Chris Gocong makes the transition from defensive end.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
WR Kevin Curtis, QB Kelly Holcomb, WR Bethel Johnson, DT Montae Reagor, DT Ian Scott

KEY LOSS:
CB Rod Hood (10/5)*
Hood was one of the league's better nickel corners, but wanted a starting opportunity and signed with Arizona in the off-season. His replacement, William James, has health issues.

OTHER LOSSES
LB Shawn Barber (13/1), QB Koy Detmer (0/0), QB Jeff Garcia (8/6), LB Dhani Jones (16/13), S Michael Lewis (14/6), RB Reno Mahe (12/1), WR Donte' Stallworth (12/11), DT Darwin Walker (16/15)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 10 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

was having one of his most productive seasons last year before his knee injury, throwing 18 touchdown passes and just five interceptions in his first nine starts.

A.J. Feeley will serve as McNabb's backup. They also acquired Kelly Holcomb, in a March trade with Buffalo.

RATING: 8.5

RUNNING BACKS

There never has been any question about Westbrook's talent. He is one of the league's most versatile running backs. He is a nightmare for opposing defenses to deal with, as the Eagles line him up all over the formation, trying to exploit mismatches in the passing game.

Last season, he toughed out an early-season knee injury and finished with a career-high 317 touches. Westbrook, who had just three 100-yard rushing performances in his first four NFL seasons, had six last year. He also finished with a team-high 77 receptions.

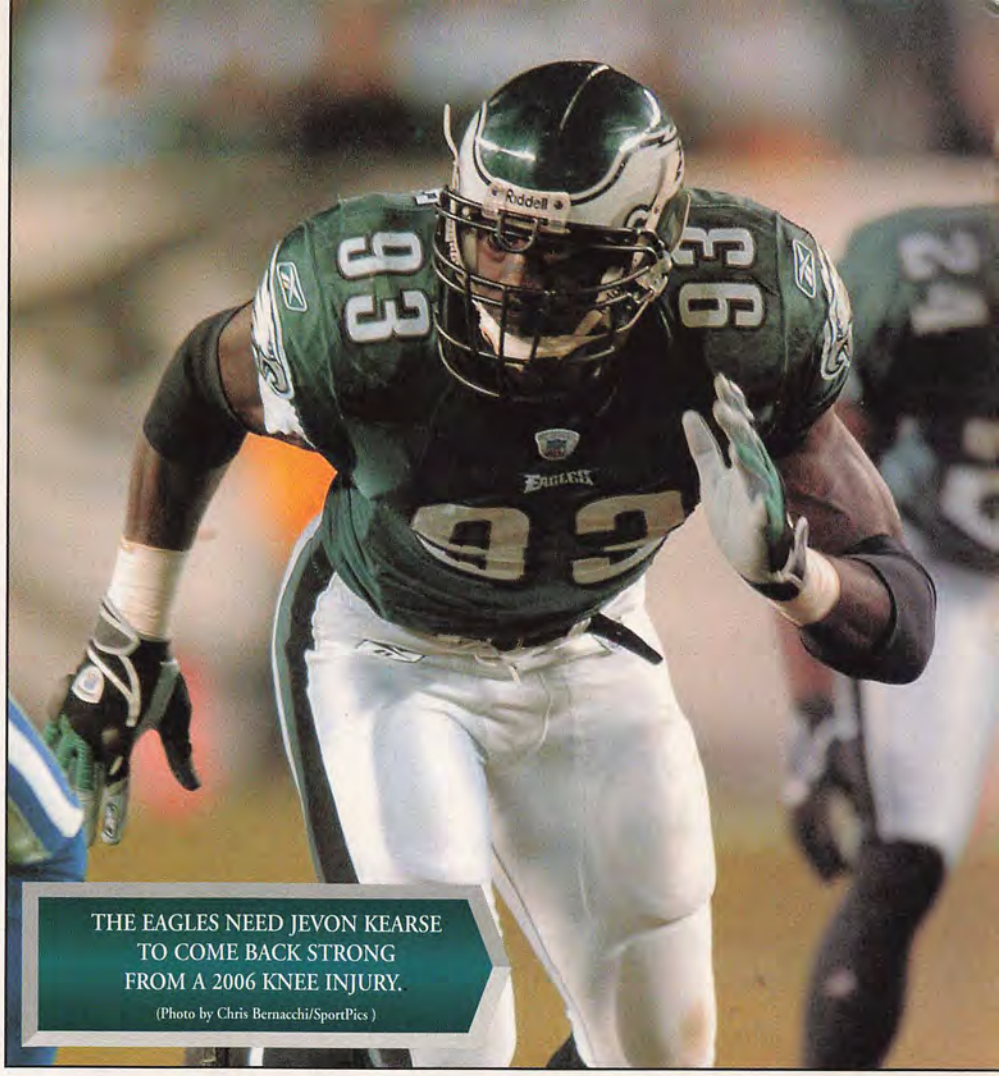
After missing three of the previous four seasons with knee injuries, Correll Buckhalter made an improbable comeback last year and did a solid job as Westbrook's backup. The Eagles also added a power back in the draft: 6-1, 233-pound Tony Hunt, who should improve the team's short-yardage and goal-line effectiveness.

RATING: 8

RECEIVERS

Reggie Brown has developed into a solid NFL wideout. While he doesn't have blazing speed, he's a dangerous yards-after-the-catch threat who averaged 17.7 yards per catch and had a team-high eight touchdown grabs.

After losing Donte' Stallworth in free agency, they signed ex-Ram Kevin Curtis. Curtis was the Rams' No. 3 receiver behind Isaac Bruce and Torry Holt, but the Eagles feel confident he can make a successful transition from the slot to the outside.



THE EAGLES NEED JEVON KEARSE TO COME BACK STRONG FROM A 2006 KNEE INJURY.

(Photo by Chris Bernacchi/SportPics)

Tight end L.J. Smith, who is entering the final year of his contract, is a seam-splitting threat who was headed for his most productive season last year before McNabb got hurt. The Eagles are bullish on their two young second-year wideouts — 6-4 Hank Baskett and Jason Avant. Baskett, a college high-jumper, averaged 21.1 yards per catch last season.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Tackles William Thomas and Jon Runyan have been playing together since the turn of the century. Runyan is 33 and Thomas is 32, but both of them had Pro Bowl-worthy seasons last year. Thomas's medical issues (back surgery, blood clot in his leg) prompted the Eagles to spend a second-round pick in the '06 draft on a potential replacement — Winston Justice. But Thomas started all 16 games and is expected to do so again this season if his back holds out.

Right guard Shawn Andrews, the team's '04 first-round pick, earned his first Pro Bowl trip and has quickly developed into one of the league's best interior linemen. The Eagles also got solid play from their two other young interior linemen — center Jamaal Jackson and left guard Todd Herremans.

RATING: 8

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Eagles are counting heavily on two players who gave them little last season: defensive end Jevon Kearse and defensive tackle Brodrick Bunkley. Kearse, who suffered a season-ending ACL injury in Week 2, will turn 31 in September and hasn't had a double-digit sack season since 2001.

Bunkley, the Eagles' 2006 first-round pick, missed the first two weeks of training camp because of a contract holdout and never was able to catch up. He seldom got on the field and the Eagles had season-long problems inside both stopping the run and pressuring the quarterback.

Ends Trent Cole and Juqua Thomas combined for 14 of the Eagles' 40 sacks last season, but neither of them is an every-down end and are most effective as part of a four-man rotation. The Eagles need much more than they got last year from end Darren Howard, who had just two sacks and two hurries in the last 11 games.

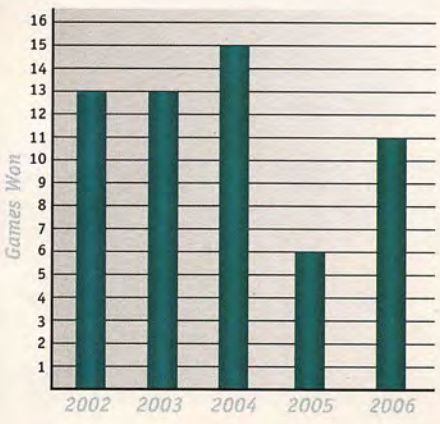
RATING: 7.5

LINEBACKERS

The Eagles finished 26th against the run last season and this unit was a major reason why. Four-time Pro Bowl middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter is playing on bad knees that have essentially turned him into a first-down linebacker with limited range.

In March, they acquired Spikes from Buffalo.

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006*

EAGLES PRE-CAMP ROSTER

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
81	Avant, Jason	6-0	212	2	Michigan	8/3	D4 06	D4 PHA 06	Tough, possession receiver who probably will be club's No. 4 wideout.
84	Baskett, Hank	6-4	220	2	New Mexico	16/5	T,MINN 06	OFA MINN 06	Former college high-jumper who averaged 21.1 yards per catch as a rookie.
11	*Bloom, Jeremy (KR)	5-9	180	2	Colorado	0/0	D5 06	D5 PHA 06	Ex-skier might be the home-run return threat Eagles have lacked.
86	**Brown, Reggie**	**6-1**	**197**	**3**	**Georgia**	**16/15**	**D2 05**	**D2 PHA 05**	**A solid yards-after-the-catch receiver who had eight touchdown receptions in '06.**
87	Celek, Brent (TE)	6-4	255	R	Cincinnati	0/0	D5 07	D5 PHA 07	Rookie will battle Schobel for the backup tight end job.
80	**Curtis, Kevin**	**5-11**	**186**	**5**	**Utah State**	**16/1**	**UFA,STL 07**	**D3 STL 03**	**A slot man with the Rams, he finally gets a starting shot on outside.**
16	Johnson, Bethel (KR)	5-11	200	5	Texas A&M	11/2	UFA,MINN 07	D2 NE 03	Best hope at making roster is as fifth wideout and kickoff returner.
83	Lewis, Greg	6-0	180	5	Illinois	16/3	OFA 03	OFA PHA 03	Is going to need a strong preseason to avoid being odd man out at receiver.
89	Schobel, Matt (TE)	6-5	255	6	Texas Christian	16/4	UFA,CIN 06	D3 CIN 02	Will be the No. 2 tight end again behind L.J. Smith.
82	**Smith, L.J. (TE)**	**6-3**	**258**	**5**	**Rutgers**	**16/15**	**D2 03**	**D2 PHA 03**	**Seam-splitting tight end who is entering final year of his contract.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
73	**Andrews, Shawn (G/T)**	**6-4**	**340**	**4**	**Arkansas**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 PHA 04**	**A Pro Bowl road-grader who is one of league's top interior linemen.**
59	Cole, Nick (C)	6-0	350	2	New Mexico State	16/0	OFA 06	OFA PHA 06	Was occasionally used as a blocking fullback in goal-line situations.
79	**Herremans, Todd (G)**	**6-6**	**321**	**3**	**Saginaw Valley State**	**16/16**	**D4 05**	**D4 PHA 05**	**Started all 16 games at left guard last season.**
67	**Jackson, Jamaal (C)**	**6-4**	**330**	**4**	**Delaware State**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**OFA PHA 03**	**Could be the Eagles' starting center for the next 10 years.**
62	Jean-Gilles, Max (G)	6-3	358	2	Georgia	0/0	D4 06	D4 PHA 06	Didn't suit up for a single game as a rookie.
74	Justice, Winston (T)	6-6	320	2	Southern Cal	0/0	D2 06	D2 PHA 06	The heir apparent at left tackle when William Thomas leaves.
68	McCoy, Pat (T)	6-5	328	2	West Texas	0/0	OFA 06	OFA PHA 06	Was inactive for every game as a rookie.
64	Rodgers, Stefan (T)	6-3	304	2	Lambuth	0/0	FA 06	OFA TENN 05	He's got an uphill battle ahead to earn a roster spot.
69	**Runyan, Jon (T)**	**6-7**	**330**	**12**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**UFA,TENN 00**	**D4 TENN 96**	**The 33-year-old Runyan is coming off one of his best seasons.**
72	**Thomas, William (T)**	**6-7**	**335**	**10**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D1 98**	**D1 PHA 98**	**The team's starting left tackle for the last nine years, this could be his swan song.**
71	Young, Scott (G)	6-4	312	3	Brigham Young	12/0	FA 05	D5 PHA 05	Former defensive lineman who still is learning to be a blocker.
RUNNING BACKS									
28	Buckhalter, Correll	6-0	217	7	Nebraska	16/1	D6 01	D6 PHA 01	Has missed three of last five seasons with knee injuries.
45	Cain, Jeremy (FB/LS)	6-1	235	2	Massachusetts	0/0	FA 07	OFA CHI 04	Played in just eight games in three seasons for the Bears.
42	*Davis, Jason (FB)	5-11	240	2	Illinois	0/0	OFA 06	OFA PHA 06	Promising pass-catching fullback who sat out rookie season with a knee injury.
29	Hunt, Tony	6-1	233	R	Penn State	0/0	D3 07	D3 PHA 07	Could be the bruising short-yardage and goal-line threat Eagles have lacked.
48	Ilaoa, Nate (FB)	5-9	245	R	Hawaii	0/0	D7 07	D7 PHA 07	A low-to-the-ground runner who can play both running back and fullback.
23	Moats, Ryan	5-8	210	3	Louisiana Tech	8/0	D3 05	D3 PHA 05	Talented, but fumble-prone runner who had just 22 carries last season.
38	**Tapeh, Thomas (FB)**	**6-1**	**243**	**4**	**Minnesota**	**16/8**	**D5 04**	**D5 PHA 04**	**Had just 21 touches as the team's starting fullback.**
36	**Westbrook, Brian**	**5-10**	**203**	**6**	**Villanova**	**15/14**	**D3 02**	**D3 PHA 02**	**Finally answered the durability question with career-high 322 touches.**
QUARTERBACKS									
14	Feeley, A.J.	6-3	220	7	Oregon	2/0	FA 06	D5 PHA 01	Eagles opted to keep him as backup and let Jeff Garcia walk.
10	Holcomb, Kelly	6-2	212	11	Middle Tennessee State	0/0	T,BUFF 07	OFA TB 95	Probably is odd man out after the drafting of Kolb.
4	Kolb, Kevin	6-3	218	R	Houston	0/0	D2 07	D2 PHA 07	Probably will spend at least the next two seasons watching, learning.
5	***McNabb, Donovan**	**6-2**	**240**	**9**	**Syracuse**	**10/10**	**D1 99**	**D1 PHA 99**	**Pro Bowler has been injured three of the last five seasons.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
78	Abiamiri, Victor (E)	6-4	267	R	Notre Dame	0/0	D2 07	D2 PHA 07	Rookie gives the Eagles depth at a key position.
97	**Bunkley, Brodrick (T)**	**6-2**	**305**	**2**	**Florida State**	**15/0**	**D1 06**	**D1 PHA 06**	**First-rounder was a major disappointment as a rookie.**
58	Cole, Trent (E/OLB)	6-3	270	3	Cincinnati	16/14	D5 05	D5 PHA 05	Had a team-high eight sacks last year, but ran out of gas down the stretch.
90	**Howard, Darren (E)**	**6-3**	**275**	**8**	**Kansas State**	**16/16**	**UFA,NO 06**	**D2 NO 00**	**Had just two sacks and two hurries in last 10 games.**
93	***Kearse, Jevon (E)**	**6-4**	**265**	**9**	**Florida**	**2/2**	**UFA,TENN 04**	**D1 TENN 99**	**Hasn't had a double-digit sack season since 2001.**
95	McDougle, Jerome (E)	6-2	264	4	Miami	14/0	D1 03	D1 PHA 03	A first-round disappointment who probably has run out of chances.
98	**Patterson, Mike (T)**	**6-0**	**292**	**3**	**Southern Cal**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 PHA 05**	**Has been a two-year starter at left tackle.**
77	Ramsey, LaJuan (T)	6-3	291	2	Southern Cal	6/0	D6 06	D6 PHA 06	Versatile lineman who can play both inside and outside.
94	*Reagor, Montae (T)	6-3	285	9	Texas Tech	5/5	FA 07	D2 DEN 99	A good inside pass-rusher who will be used mainly in nickel packages.
91	Scott, Ian (T)	6-3	302	5	Florida	15/7	UFA,CHI 07	D4 CHI 03	A blue-collar tackle who started 30 games last three years for Bears.
75	Thomas, Juqua (E)	6-2	250	7	Oklahoma State	16/1	FA 05	OFA TENN 01	Coming off of his most productive season; had six sacks.
LINEBACKERS									
55	Bradley, Stewart (O)	6-3	254	R	Nebraska	0/0	D3 07	D3 PHA 07	Will compete for strong-side job, but can also play in the middle.
56	Daniels, Tank (O)	6-3	248	2	Harding	6/0	FA 06	OFA PHA 06	Solid special-teamer who was promoted from practice squad in late November.
96	Gaither, Omar (M)	6-1	235	2	Tennessee	16/5	D5 06	D5 PHA 06	Started five games on weak side as rookie, but expected to be moved inside.
57	***Gocong, Chris (O)**	**6-2**	**263**	**2**	**Cal Poly-SLO**	**0/0**	**D3 06**	**D3 PHA 06**	**Former defensive end's ability to make transition to strong side is one of keys to defense.**
50	McCoy, Matt (O)	5-11	230	3	San Diego State	15/10	D2 05	D2 PHA 05	Opened '06 as starting weak-side linebacker, but now will back up Spikes.
53	Roper, Dedrick (O)	6-2	245	3	Northwood	8/0	FA 06	OFA PITT 04	Was seventh on team in special teams points, despite playing in just eight games.
51	**Spikes, Takeo (O)**	**6-2**	**242**	**10**	**Auburn**	**12/11**	**T,BUFF 07**	**D1 CIN 98**	**Can play all three positions, but the plan is to put him on the weak side.**
54	**Trotter, Jeremiah (M)**	**6-1**	**262**	**10**	**Stephen F. Austin**	**16/16**	**FA 04**	**D3 PHA 98**	**The former Pro Bowler will have to hold off Gaither to keep middle linebacker job.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
31	Barksdale, Rashad (CB)	6-0	208	R	Albany (N.Y.)	0/0	D6 07	D6 PHA 07	Played just one year of college ball, but Eagles like his athleticism.
24	**Brown, Sheldon (CB)**	**5-10**	**200**	**6**	**South Carolina**	**16/16**	**D2 02**	**D2 PHA 02**	**Three-year starter who is coming off an inconsistent season.**
37	**Considine, Sean (S)**	**6-0**	**212**	**3**	**Iowa**	**16/9**	**D4 05**	**D4 PHA 05**	**Has added about 12 pounds to help him in run support.**
20	**Dawkins, Brian (S)**	**6-0**	**210**	**12**	**Clemson**	**16/16**	**D2 96**	**D2 PHA 96**	**Will turn 34 in the fall, but still playing at a Pro Bowl level.**
25	Fox, Dustin (CB)	5-11	200	2	Ohio State	1/0	FA 07	D3 MINN 05	Former practice-squad player can play both corner and safety.
30	Gaddis, C.J. (S)	5-11	203	R	Clemson	0/0	D5 07	D5 PHA 07	Special teams will be the rookie's ticket onto the roster.
22	Hanson, Joselio (CB)	5-9	185	3	Texas Tech	16/1	FA 06	OFA SF 03	The NFL Europe alum did a solid job as Eagles' fourth corner last year.
21	James, William (CB)	6-0	200	7	Western Illinois	3/0	FA 06	D3 NYG 01	If he can stay healthy, he could beat out Brown for starting job.
27	Mikell, Quintin (S)	5-10	206	5	Boise State	16/1	OFA 03	OFA PHA 03	Special-teams captain who will back up both safety spots in '07.
26	**Sheppard, Lito (CB)**	**5-10**	**194**	**6**	**Florida**	**13/13**	**D1 02**	**D1 PHA 02**	**Two-time Pro Bowler who had six interceptions last season.**
SPECIALISTS									
2	Akers, David (K)	5-10	200	8	Louisville	16/0	FA 99	OFA CAR 97	Missed career-high three field-goal attempts from inside the 40 last year.
88	*Bartrum, Mike (LS/TE)	6-4	245	13	Marshall	11/0	FA 00	OFA KC 93	Eagles might be looking for his replacement.
46	Dorenbos, Jon (LS)	6-0	250	5	Texas-El Paso	6/0	FA 06	OFA BUFF 03	Did an adequate job after replacing the injured Mike Bartrum last year.
8	Johnson, Dirk (P)	6-0	205	5	Northern Colorado	16/0	FA 03	OFA SEA 98	A solid directional punter who also holds for Akers.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Zac Collie (Brigham Young), Dereck Faulkner (Hampton), Michael Gasperson (1, San Diego), Jermaine Jackson (1, Fresno State), J.J. Outlaw (1, Villanova), Bill Sampy (1, Louisiana-Lafayette); TE Lee Vickers (1, North Alabama); OT Jonathan Palmer (Auburn); OGs Jacob Hobbs (Albany), Chris White (South Carolina); C Jasper Harvey (1, San Diego State); FB Zach Tuiasosopo (1, Washington); DE Marques Murrell (Appalachian State); DT Jeremy Clark (Alabama); LBs Craig Kobel (South Florida), Akeem Jordan (James Madison); CB Nick Graham (Tulsa); Ss Erick Harris (1, Liberty), Marcus Paschal (Iowa), Chris Smith (Florida International); PK E.J. Cochrane (1, Montana State); P Saverio Rocca (None)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*More running. Pass-happy Andy Reid has turned over the play-calling to offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg, who is expected to focus more on the running game than Reid did. The Eagles even selected a power back (Tony Hunt) in the draft to strengthen their short-yardage and goal-line packages.

*More Bunkley. Defensive tackle Brodrick Bunkley, the team's '06 first-round pick, was a non-factor as a rookie, spending most of the season on the bench. That won't be the case this year. He has been penciled in as the team's starting right tackle and is the key to a defensive turnaround.

*Less Trotter. Middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter's knees are shot. He's coming off a disappointing season and will have to beat out second-year man Omar Gaither this summer to keep his starting job. Even if he does, he'll essentially be a first-down linebacker.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Donovan McNabb

Quarterback Donovan McNabb has been the straw that stirs the Eagles' drink since the team drafted him in 1999. But the five-time Pro Bowler has missed significant chunks of three of the last five seasons with injuries, prompting the Eagles to take a quarterback (Kevin Kolb) with their first pick in the April draft.

While coach Andy Reid has said that the 30-year-old McNabb has at least five or six productive seasons left in him, he clearly is on the clock. McNabb was having one of his most productive seasons last year before tearing his ACL in mid-November.

Fiery veteran Jeff Garcia replaced him and guided the Eagles to their fifth NFC East title in six years. But Garcia wasn't re-signed. If McNabb isn't ready for the start of the season or goes down with another injury, backup A.J. Feeley, who has made just 13 starts in six NFL seasons, would replace him.

McNabb has missed 24 of the Eagles' last 71 games because of injuries.

Despite an Achilles tendon injury two years ago, the Eagles think Spikes still can be a difference-maker. They plan to put him at weak-side linebacker. Second-year man Omar Gaither, who played pretty well in five starts at WILL late last season, will move inside and compete with Trotter for the starting job. He'll also be the middle linebacker in their nickel package.

The Eagles released strong-side linebacker Dhani Jones and are hoping that '06 third-round pick Chris Gocong, a college defensive end, can make the transition to SAM linebacker. If he can't, Spikes likely would move to the strong side and Gaither would return to WILL.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

The Eagles allowed just 17 passing touchdowns and finished ninth in the league in pass defense last season. However, free safety Brian Dawkins will turn 34 this fall and it's uncertain how much longer he can continue to play at a high level. The jury still is out on strong safety Sean Considine, who struggled against the run last season after replacing Mike Lewis.

Lito Sheppard and Sheldon Brown have been the Eagles' starting cornerback tandem for the last three seasons, but their valuable nickel corner, Rod Hood, signed with Arizona. Defensive coordinator Jim Johnson likes ex-Giant William James, who he has called "the key" to this unit. James has his eyes on Brown's starting job. Joselio Hanson did a good job last year as the team's fourth corner.

RATING: 8

SPECIAL TEAMS

With an 81.6 career field-goal percentage, David Akers is one of the most accurate kickers in NFL history. But he missed a career-high three field-goal attempts from inside the 40 last season. Dirk Johnson is a solid directional punter who averaged 42.6 yards per attempt.

The Eagles have lacked a true home-run return threat the last few seasons, settling for solid-handed returners like Reno Mahe. They are hoping former moguls skier Jeremy Bloom, who spent last season on injured reserve with hamstring problems, might change that. They also signed speedy ex-Patriot, Bethel Johnson.

Their dependable long-time long-snapper, Mike Bartrum, retired last season and was replaced by Jon Dorenbos.

RATING: 7.5

INTANGIBLES

Reid had to take a five-week leave of absence and briefly considered quitting during the off-season after his two oldest sons were arrested on drug and weapons offenses. If something else happens during the season, it might make it difficult for Reid to focus on his job.

RATING: Minus 1

— Paul Domowitch

2006 RESULTS

Record: 11-7

Sep. 10	at Houston	24-10
Sep. 17	N.Y. GIANTS (OT)	24-30
Sep. 24	at San Francisco	38-24
Oct. 2	GREEN BAY	31- 9
Oct. 8	DALLAS	38-24
Oct. 15	at New Orleans	24-27
Oct. 22	at Tampa Bay	21-23
Oct. 29	JACKSONVILLE	6-13
Nov. 5	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 12	WASHINGTON	27- 3
Nov. 19	TENNESSEE	13-31
Nov. 26	at Indianapolis	21-45
Dec. 4	CAROLINA	27-24
Dec. 10	at Washington	21-19
Dec. 17	at N.Y. Giants	36-22
Dec. 25	at Dallas	23- 7
Dec. 31	ATLANTA	24-17
Jan. 7	N.Y. GIANTS	23-20
Jan. 13	at New Orleans	24-27

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 13	at Baltimore (Mon.)	7:00
Aug. 17	CAROLINA (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 26	at Pittsburgh (Sun.)	8:00
Aug. 30	N.Y. JETS (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 9	at Green Bay	12:00
Sep. 17	WASHINGTON (Mon.)	8:30
Sep. 23	DETROIT	1:00
Sep. 30	at N.Y. Giants	8:15
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Oct. 21	CHICAGO	4:15
Oct. 28	at Minnesota	12:00
Nov. 4	DALLAS	8:15
Nov. 11	at Washington	1:00
Nov. 18	MIAMI	1:00
Nov. 25	at New England	8:15
Dec. 2	SEATTLE	1:00
Dec. 9	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
Dec. 16	at Dallas	3:15
Dec. 23	at New Orleans	12:00
Dec. 30	BUFFALO	1:00

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

2006 RECORD: 5-11 | STADIUM: FedEx Field, 91,665, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

NFC EAST | www.redskins.com

AT A GLANCE

21300 Redskin Park Drive
Ashburn, VA 20147
(703) 726-7000

TRAINING CAMP:
Redskin Park; Ashburn, VA

COACH:
Joe Gibbs, 16th year with Redskins and as NFL head coach (162-93)

VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Vinny Cerrato

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Scott Campbell

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Louis Riddick

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Joe Bugel	Asst. head coach/offense	30	13
Al Saunders	Assoc. head coach/offense	25	2
Don Breaux	Offensive coordinator	27	17
Bill Lazor	Quarterbacks	5	4
Stan Hixon	Receiver	4	4
Earnest Byner	Running backs	24	9
Rennie Simmons	Tight ends	26	17
Jack Burns	Offensive assistant	16	7
Bob Saunders	Special projects	6	2
Bill Khayat	Offensive quality control	4	1
Gregg Williams	Asst. head coach/defense	17	4
Greg Blache	Defensive coordinator/line	20	4
Kirk Olivadotti	Linebackers	8	8
Jerry Gray	Secondary	11	2
Steve Jackson	Safeties/nickel package	16	4
Matthew Shea	Defensive quality control	4	4
Danny Smith	Special teams	13	4
John Hastings	Strength & Conditioning	13	6
Bobby Crumpler	Strength & Conditioning	5	5
Harrison Bernstein	Strength & Conditioning	1	1

Gibbs' Legacy Could be on the Line

Joe Gibbs' first tenure as coach of the Washington Redskins was a cruise down easy street: a dozen years that included three Super Bowl trophies, eight trips to the playoffs and just one losing season.

In contrast, the Hall of Famer's second tour of duty has been a roller coaster with more lurches than a 66-year-old diabetic should stomach.

Gibbs was welcomed back in January 2004 as the savior of a franchise that had reached the playoffs just once in the 11 years he was away. A 6-10 season later, even Redskins fans were wondering if the master had lost his magic. Gibbs shut up the skeptics with a 6-0 stretch run in 2005 that included a wild-card victory at Tampa Bay.

However, the critics returned in full force in 2006 as the Redskins' typical profligate March spending on such underachievers as Adam Archuleta, Brandon Lloyd and Antwaan Randle El and the addition of well-respected offensive coordinator Al Saunders resulted in a miserable 5-11 season, the worst of Gibbs' 15-year career.

Gibbs, who has two years left on his contract and is also the team president, doesn't have to worry about being fired by notoriously impatient owner Dan Snyder or having his bust removed from Canton. However, the coach desperately wants to restore the Redskins to the NFL elite before he walks away for good.

Since the defense, which crashed from ninth in 2005 to 31st last year, was the prime factor in last year's collapse, Gibbs spent most of his off-season energy on that side of the ball. Washington signed London Fletcher, the NFL's top tackler the past five years, to replace the out-of-position Lamar Marshall at middle linebacker. Cornerback Fred Smoot was brought back from Minnesota and fellow veteran cornerback David Macklin was added to provide proven talent at a position where the Redskins struggled when Shawn Springs was hurt in 2006. And Washington used its only first-day draft choice, No. 6 overall, on Louisiana State safety LaRon Landry.

The offense should be productive: if Saunders and Gibbs can remain on the same page as was true late last season; if quarterback Jason Campbell, who replaced faltering veteran Mark Brunell last November, continues to progress in his first year as the starter; and if career right tackle Todd Wade or one of the host of other candidates is an effective replacement for departed left guard Derrick Dockery.

COACHING

No owner spends more on coaches than Snyder. Assistant head coaches Gregg Williams (defense) and Joe Bugel (offense) and Saunders are former head coaches. Defensive line coach Greg Blache, cornerbacks coach Jerry Gray and big-picture assistants Don Breaux and Jack Burns are former coor-

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
LB London Fletcher

He overcame his sister's murder, his mother's drug addiction, his 5-10 height and small-school roots to become a top middle linebacker. So Fletcher won't be fazed by the challenge of righting the Redskins' defense.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
CB David Macklin, CB Fred Smoot, S Omar Stoutmire

KEY LOSS:
OG Derrick Dockery (16/16)*
The rangy left guard underachieved during his first three years. He wasn't one of the team's top blockers last season. But Dockery will still be missed by his buddy, Pro Bowl left tackle Chris Samuels.

OTHER LOSSES
S Adam Archuleta (16/7), RB T.J. Duckett (10/0), TE Christian Fauria (9/0), K John Hall (5/0), LB Warrick Holdman (16/16), TE Brian Kozlowski (3/0), OL Jim Molinaro (1/0), WR David Patten (5/0), LB Jeff Posey (16/0), S Troy Vincent (8/3), CB Kenny Wright (16/9)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 10 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

dinators. But for a large part of last season, Saunders' gift for trickery clashed with Gibbs' power football concepts. Linebackers coach Dale Lindsey and safeties coach Steve Jackson clashed with their players. Lindsey's dismissal should help the harmony, but the staff still needs to regain the players' full trust and vice-versa.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

Campbell, for whom the Redskins traded three picks for the right to draft him 25th overall in 2005, showed a strong arm and good poise in his seven-game debut last year. However, he needs to work on his touch, his consistency and develop into more of a leader. Brunell, who resurrected his career in 2005 after a dreadful 2004 season, set an NFL record with 22 straight completions in Week 3 but might have started his final game seven weeks later. He'll be 37 this fall — a year older than No. 3 quarterback Todd Collins — and shouldn't play unless Campbell gets hurt. This is the kid's team now.

RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

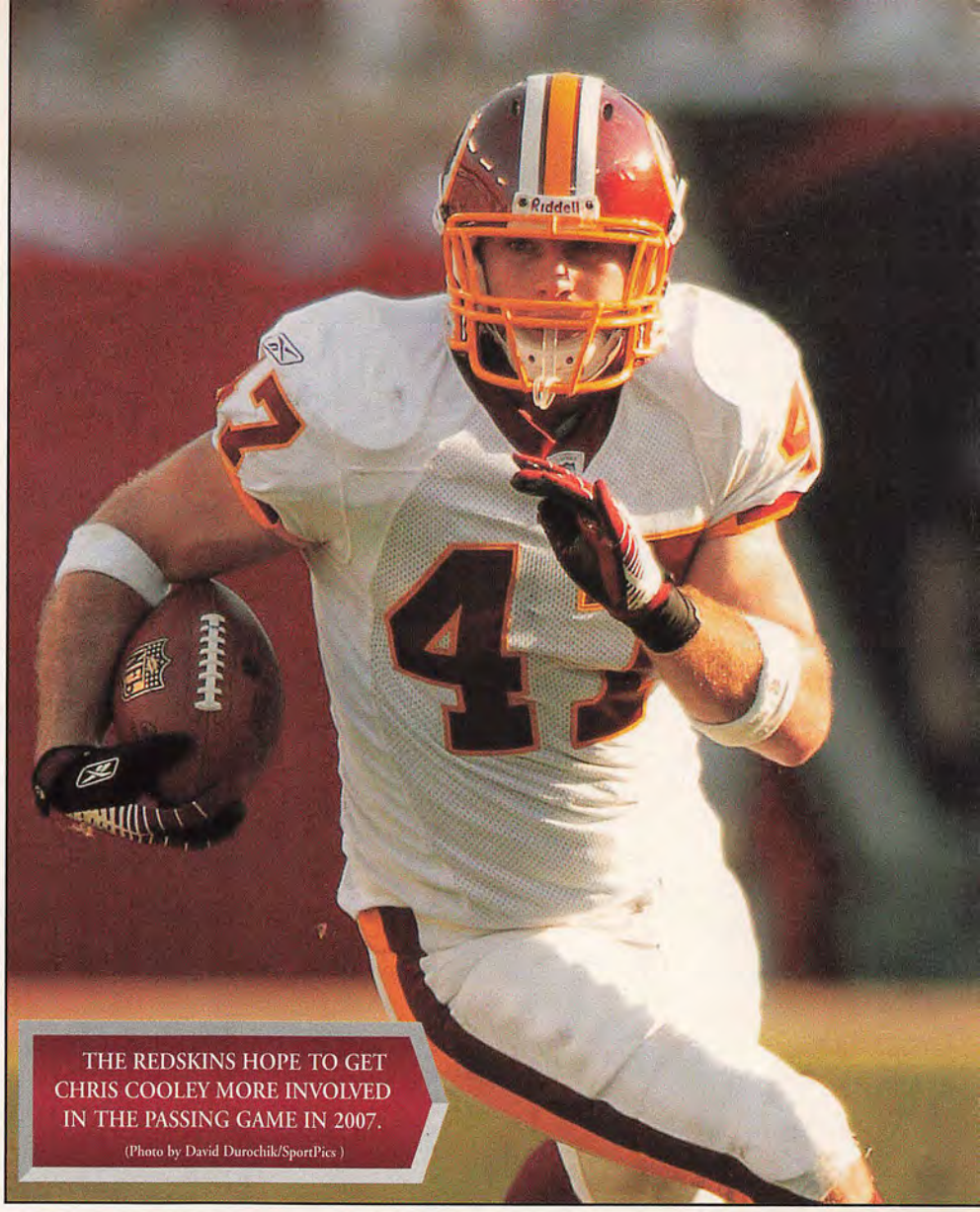
Ladell Betts' tremendous second half after Clinton Portis succumbed to hand and shoulder injuries makes this the Redskins' strong suit. Portis, who set a franchise record with 1,516 yards in 2005, is quick and shifty. Betts, who set a team six-game record with 770 yards during his final six starts, runs with more power. Fullback Mike Sellers is quite nimble for a 278-pound man.

RATING: 8

RECEIVERS

Adding the acrobatic Lloyd and triple-threat Randle El to 2005 Pro Bowl starter Santana Moss was supposed to produce riches for the Redskins' passing game. The result was more like rags. Moss battled a hamstring injury for much of the season and dropped from 84 catches and a Redskins record 1,436 yards to 55 and 790. Lloyd caught just 23 balls, didn't score and finished the season on the bench after an on-field outburst. Randle El had only 32 catches with three touchdowns. Even tight end Chris Cooley suffered, slipping from 71 catches in 2005 to 57, which led the team. Todd Yoder, a non-descript blocking tight end, splits time with Sellers.

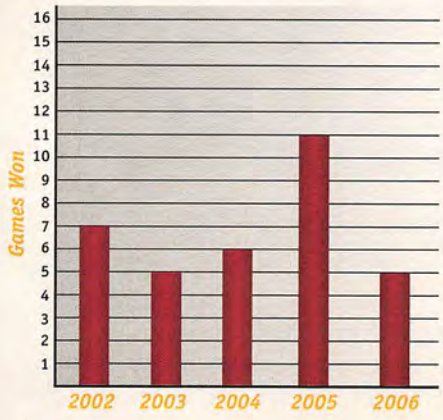
RATING: 6.5



THE REDSKINS HOPE TO GET CHRIS COOLEY MORE INVOLVED IN THE PASSING GAME IN 2007.

(Photo by David Durochik/SportPics)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2005*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Redskins switched quarterbacks and running backs, but the line had its best season of Gibbs' second tenure, allowing just 19 sacks in 489 dropbacks and opening holes for a running game that averaged 4.5 yards per carry. Athletic left tackle Chris Samuels was picked for a fourth Pro Bowl in seven years. Right tackle Jon Jansen gave a yeoman effort in playing much of the year on one leg (missing just one game). Center Casey Rabach played with a broken thumb in December. Right guard Randy Thomas had a successful return from a broken leg in 2005. The big question is whether Wade, Mike Pucillo, Will Whitticker, Ross Tucker or Taylor Whitley can replace Dockery.

RATING: 7.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

After a phantom first 11 games, right end Andre Carter saved the free-agent class of 2006 with four sacks and 41 tackles in the final five games. However, left tackle Cornelius Griffin continued to be worn down by bad hips and right tackle Joe Salave'a, who was beaten out by surprisingly solid sixth-rounder Kedric Golston, might be done. Right end Phillip Daniels is recovering from off-season surgeries on both ankles and a wrist and, at 34, is a year older than third end Renaldo Wynn. This unit, which received two of its 13 sacks from fourth end Demetric Evans, badly needs an infusion of youth and talent.

RATING: 6.5

LINEBACKERS

Marcus Washington had been the Redskins' best defensive player until his 2006 season was ended

Redskins Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
47	**Cooley, Chris (TE)**	**6-3**	**250**	**4**	**Utah State**	**16/16**	**D3 04**	**D3 WSH 04**	**Has moves to get open in red zone and speed to make plays downfield.**
88	Ecker, Tyler (TE)	6-6	251	R	Michigan	0/0	D7 07	D7 WSH 07	Seventh-rounder needs to stay healthy to become third tight end.
84	Edwards, Eric (TE)	6-5	257	3	Louisiana State	0/0	FA 07	OFA ARIZ 04	A starter for Cards in '05, Edwards could be the third tight end.
11	Espy, Mike	5-11	195	2	Mississippi	1/0	FA 06	OFA WSH 06	Son of Clinton Cabinet member's hustle won him job last December.
85	**Lloyd, Brandon**	**6-0**	**192**	**5**	**Illinois**	**15/12**	**D4 03**	**D4 SF 03**	**Needs to rebound from awful '06 season to keep starting job.**
89	**Moss, Santana**	**5-10**	**190**	**7**	**Miami**	**14/14**	**T,NYJ 05**	**D1 NYJ 01**	**More yards and touchdowns in first two years than any Redskins receiver since 1990-91.**
82	Randle El, Antwaan	5-10	192	6	Indiana	16/16	UFA,PITT 06	D2 PITT 02	Triple threat wasn't true weapon with 54 touches on offense in D.C. debut.
83	Thrash, James	6-0	205	11	Missouri Southern	16/0	T,PHA 04	OFA PHA 97	A Gibbs favorite, 4th receiver still makes clutch catches and plays on special teams.
87	Yoder, Todd (TE)	6-4	262	7	Vanderbilt	14/0	FA 06	OFA TB 00	September '06 signee is mostly blocker, but scored on his lone catch.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
75	Armstrong, Calvin (T)	6-7	325	2	Washington State	0/0	FA 07	D6 PHA 05	Practice squad player in '06.
69	Fabini, Jason (T)	6-7	309	10	Cincinnati	15/0	FA 07	D4 NYJ 98	Longtime Jets starting right tackle trying to hang on for 10th year.
76	**Jansen, Jon (T)**	**6-6**	**308**	**9**	**Michigan**	**15/15**	**D2 99**	**D2 WSH 99**	**They don't call warrior-like right tackle "The Rock" for nothing.**
62	Pucillo, Mike (C)	6-4	311	5	Auburn	11/0	UFA,CLV 06	D7 BUFF 02	Plays tight end in short yardage and could start at left guard if Wade flops.
61	**Rabach, Casey (C)**	**6-4**	**295**	**7**	**Wisconsin**	**16/16**	**UFA,BLT 05**	**D3 BLT 01**	**Wily center is glue that keeps unit together for fiery line coach Bugel.**
60	**Samuels, Chris (T)**	**6-5**	**310**	**8**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**D1 00**	**D1 WSH 00**	**Smooth left tackle is tough enough to battle through injuries and make Pro Bowls.**
77	**Thomas, Randy (G)**	**6-5**	**310**	**9**	**Mississippi State**	**16/16**	**UFA,NYJ 03**	**D2 NYJ 99**	**Powerful right guard is emotional leader of underrated line.**
68	Tucker, Ross (G)	6-4	310	5	Princeton	0/0	FA 07	OFA WSH 01	Back where he started after versatile stints with Cowboys, Bills, Pats.
71	**Wade, Todd (G)**	**6-8**	**317**	**8**	**Mississippi**	**2/1**	**FA 06**	**D2 MIA 00**	**A right tackle for seven years is making transition to left guard with Bugel's help.**
72	Whitley, Taylor (G)	6-4	305	5	Texas A&M	0/0	FA 06	D3 MIA 03	Started for Miami as rookie guard in '04; can also play center.
63	Whitticker, Will (G)	6-5	338	2	Michigan State	0/0	FA 07	D7 GB 05	Started for Packers as rookie guard in '05; could play if Wade falters.
RUNNING BACKS									
46	Betts, Ladell	5-10	223	6	Iowa	16/9	D2 02	D2 WSH 02	Ran like a true No. 1 running back after Portis went on injured reserve in November.
48	Blaylock, Derrick	5-9	210	6	Stephen F. Austin	4/2	FA 07	D5 KC 01	Veteran knows Saunders' offense from their time in Kansas City.
31	Cartwright, Rock	5-7	215	6	Kansas State	16/0	D7 02	D7 WSH 02	Fireplug set team kickoff return marks in '06.
26	***Portis, Clinton**	**5-11**	**212**	**5**	**Miami**	**8/1**	**T,DEN 04**	**D2 DEN 02**	**Gifted runner looking to rebound from injury-riddled, career-worst season.**
45	**Sellers, Mike (FB)**	**6-3**	**278**	**8**	**Walla Walla**	**16/6**	**FA 04**	**FA WSH 98**	**Huge blocker scored eight touchdowns on just 13 touches in '05.**
QUARTERBACKS									
5	Bramlet, Casey	6-4	220	2	Wyoming	0/0	FA 07	D7 CIN 04	Camp arm should benefit from NFL Europa stint, but not Palmer's arrival.
8	Brunell, Mark	6-1	217	15	Washington	10/9	T,JAX 04	D5 GB 93	Third benching in four years should be 36-year-old lefty's last one.
17	**Campbell, Jason**	**6-4**	**230**	**3**	**Auburn**	**7/7**	**D2 05**	**D2 WSH 05**	**'05 rookie showed plenty of promise after becoming starter at mid-season.**
15	Collins, Todd	6-4	228	12	Michigan	0/0	UFA,KC 06	D2 BUFF 95	Has thrown just 27 passes last nine years. Should make it a decade.
3	Palmer, Jordan	6-5	231	R	Texas-El Paso	0/0	D6 07	D6 WSH 07	Carson Palmer's brother should spend year learning on practice squad.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
73	Boschetti, Ryan (T)	6-4	305	4	UCLA	2/0	FA 07	OFA WSH 04	No one works harder than ex-rookie free agent, but that's not enough.
99	**Carter, Andre (E)**	**6-4**	**265**	**7**	**California**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 SF 01**	**Skins believe his strong stretch run was harbinger, not fluke.**
74	Clauss, Jared (T)	6-4	290	3	Iowa	0/0	FA 07	D7 TENN 04	Has a shot after playing in 29 games for Titans in 2004-05.
93	**Daniels, Phillip (E)**	**6-5**	**290**	**12**	**Georgia**	**16/15**	**FA 04**	**D4 SEA 96**	**It's too much to expect big numbers from oft-injured 12-year vet.**
92	Evans, Demetric (E)	6-3	285	5	Georgia	16/0	FA 04	OFA DALL 01	Heading into fourth Redskins season because of versatility.
64	**Golston, Kedric (T)**	**6-4**	**292**	**2**	**Georgia**	**16/13**	**D6 06**	**D6 WSH 06**	**Surprise of '06 started 13 games at tackle as sixth-rounder.**
91	Green, Jamaal (E)	6-2	258	3	Miami	0/0	FA 07	D4 PHA 03	He hasn't played since getting in eight games for Eagles in '04.
96	**Griffin, Cornelius (T)**	**6-3**	**310**	**8**	**Alabama**	**14/14**	**UFA,NYG 04**	**D2 NYG 00**	**Bad hips limited him past two years after monster season in '04.**
94	Montgomery, Anthony (T)	6-5	305	2	Minnesota	5/1	D5 06	D5 WSH 06	'06 fifth-rounder has size to play more at tackle than he did as rookie.
95	Salave'a, Joe (T)	6-3	317	9	Arizona	13/4	UFA,SD 04	D4 TENN 98	Lost starting job to Golston in '06. Bad wheels might finish him at 32.
78	Sykes, Joe (E)	6-2	266	1	Southern	1/0	FA 06	OFA WSH 06	Tryout pass-rushing end made practice squad and debuted in '06 finale.
97	Wynn, Renaldo (E)	6-3	285	11	Notre Dame	15/1	UFA,JAX 02	D1 JAX 97	Adjusted to backup role in '06 with class. Will be 33 in September.
LINEBACKERS									
54	Blades, H.B. (M)	5-11	236	R	Pittsburgh	0/0	D6 07	D6 WSH 07	Son of longtime NFL safety Bennie Blades is younger version of London Fletcher.
50	*Campbell, Khary (O)	6-3	232	5	Bowling Green	14/1	FA 04	OFA DALL 02	Led Redskins in special teams tackles the past two seasons.
59	**Fletcher, London (M)**	**5-10**	**245**	**10**	**John Carroll**	**16/16**	**UFA,BUFF 07**	**OFA STL 98**	**Squatty middle man should continue to thrive in D.C. debut.**
98	Marshall, Lemar (O)	6-2	232	6	Michigan State	15/15	FA 01	OFA TB 99	Three-year starter will likely be backup thanks to Fletcher's arrival.
52	**McIntosh, Rocky (O)**	**6-2**	**231**	**2**	**Miami**	**16/2**	**D2 06**	**D2 WSH 06**	**'06 second-rounder could start on weak side after limited rookie year.**
55	Sartz, Dallas (O)	6-4	235	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D5 07	D5 WSH 07	Fifth-rounder could win a job on special teams.
53	***Washington, Marcus (O)**	**6-3**	**250**	**8**	**Auburn**	**14/14**	**UFA,IND 04**	**D2 IND 00**	**Strong-side standout will rush more in '07 if healthy.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
37	Doughty, Reed (S)	6-1	210	2	Northern Colorado	10/0	D6 06	D6 WSH 06	Ex-Div. I-AA star will have hard time sticking after safety upgrades.
25	Eubanks, John (CB)	5-10	173	1	Southern Mississippi	1/0	FA 06	OFA WSH 06	From tryout camp in May, to roster in December, but that's all.
39	Fox, Vernon (S)	5-10	200	6	Fresno State	16/6	FA 06	OFA SD 02	Career special teamer finished '06 as starter; shouldn't open '07 as one.
32	Jimoh, Ade (CB)	6-1	195	5	Utah State	16/0	OFA 03	OFA WSH 03	Off-season additions in secondary jeopardize special teams ace's job.
30	Landry, LaRon (S)	6-0	213	R	Louisiana State	0/0	D1 07	D1 WSH 07	Dynamic top draft choice will likely be eased into lineup at strong safety.
38	*Macklin, David (CB)	5-10	206	8	Penn State	14/7	UFA,ARZ 07	D3 IND 00	Starter for five of seven years with Colts, Cards; will push for time at cornerback.
20	***Prioleau, Pierson (S)**	**5-11**	**185**	**9**	**Virginia Tech**	**1/0**	**FA 05**	**D4 SF 99**	**Wily vet should open '07 at strong safety before yielding to Landry.**
22	**Rogers, Carlos (CB)**	**6-0**	**195**	**3**	**Auburn**	**15/15**	**D1 05**	**D1 WSH 05**	**Will arrival of Smoot, Macklin prompt revival by '05 top pick?**
27	*Smoot, Fred (CB)	5-11	178	7	Mississippi State	14/10	FA 07	D2 WSH 01	Looking for redemption in return to D.C. after two ugly years in Minnesota.
24	***Springs, Shawn (CB)**	**6-0**	**200**	**11**	**Ohio State**	**9/1**	**UFA,SEA 04**	**D1 SEA 97**	**Still No. 1 corner at 32 if he stays put, despite sky-high cap number.**
23	Stoutmire, Omar (S)	5-11	205	11	Fresno State	13/9	UFA,NO 07	D7 DALL 97	Redskins backup in '05 returns after starting in '06 for Saints.
21	**Taylor, Sean (S)**	**6-2**	**232**	**4**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 WSH 04**	**Fifth pick in '04 draft went to Pro Bowl in '06 despite coverage lapses.**
29	Torrence, Leigh (CB)	6-0	183	2	Stanford	0/0	FA 06	OFA GB 05	Former Falcon didn't play after being signed before '06 finale.
SPECIALISTS									
67	Albright, Ethan (LS)	6-5	265	13	North Carolina	16/0	FA 01	OFA MIA 94	Like a fine wine, 12-year snapper keeps getting better with age.
4	Frost, Derrick (P)	6-2	202	4	Northern Iowa	16/0	FA 05	OFA PHA 03	Roll king of '05 got on roll in '06 and had best year at 26.
6	Suisham, Shaun (K)	6-0	205	2	Bowling Green	8/0	FA 06	OFA PITT 05	Wowed coaches with 8-of-9 accuracy after being signed in December.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Cedric Bonner (1, Texas A&M-Commerce), Kyle Brown (1, Michigan State), Ryan Hoag (1, Gustavus Adolphus), Danny Melendez (1, Maryland); OT Stephon Heyer (Maryland); OG Kili Lefotu (1, Arizona); RBs Terry Caulley (Connecticut), Marcus Mason (Youngstown State); QB Sam Hollenbach (Maryland); DEs Justin Hickman (UCLA), Bryant Shaw (1, Mississippi), Chris Wilson (Northwood); DT Lorenzo Alexander (1, California); LBs Zach Latimer (Oklahoma), Anthony Trucks (1, Oregon); CB Chip Cox (Ohio University); PK Tyler Fredrickson (1, California)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Can career right tackle Todd Wade, who has played one game since undergoing major knee surgery in November 2005, step in at left guard? If he and the other contenders falter, the whole line could struggle. The Redskins hope Wade works out because of a hole left by the departure of Derrick Dockery.

*Can the aging Cornelius Griffin and Shawn Springs ever recapture their Pro Bowl-level form of 2004? For the defense to rebound, those two players must raise the level of their game.

*Given his first extended chance to be the man after Clinton Portis was lost last year, Ladell Betts performed like a Pro Bowl runner. Portis never shared the load during his first five seasons. Will there be enough carries to keep them both happy?

ON THE HOT SEAT

Jason Campbell

It's probably not fair to put a 25-year-old with seven games on his resume on the hot seat, but that's the nature of the job once held by Hall of Famers Sammy Baugh and Sonny Jurgensen and by Super Bowl winners Joe Theismann, Doug Williams and Mark Rypien.

Campbell's numbers — 10 touchdowns, six interceptions, 1,297 yards and a 76.5 passer rating — were fine for a neophyte, unfamiliar with his receivers. The 53.1 completion percentage and the 6.27 yards per attempt should improve with experience. The completion percentage is most important in a league where at least 60 percent has become the norm for successful quarterbacks.

The former Auburn star has always had the big arm and big body that help prevent interceptions and sacks and is surprisingly agile. More impressive was Campbell's poise, a quality that such recent young Redskins passers as Heath Shuler and Patrick Ramsey lacked. And Campbell is very self-effacing, coachable and down to earth.

If Campbell plays well and the Redskins win, he will be Washington's newest hero. But if he and the team struggle, the fickle fans might even cheer for the unloved Brunell to get back under center.

two games prematurely because of an ailing knee and hip that also kept him out of the first month of the off-season conditioning program. Fletcher, who ran assistant head coach Gregg Williams' defense in Buffalo in 2002 and 2003, should have an easy transition. If Rocky McIntosh, whom the Redskins traded up to nab in the second round of the 2006 draft, is as good as they think, this will be a strength. Three-year starter Marshall is now the top backup.

RATING: 6.5

SECONDARY

Adam Archuleta was a disaster after the Redskins made him the highest-paid safety in NFL history last year and was dealt to Chicago for a sixth-round choice. Heady veteran Pierson Prioleau, who missed last year after knee surgery, might start the opener, but Archuleta's ultimate replacement will be Landry, who's supposed to better in coverage than the flashy but unreliable partner Sean Taylor. With 2005 first-rounder Carlos Rogers, Smoot, Macklin and if Springs stays put despite his $7.35 million cap number, the Redskins will have the corner depth they lacked last year.

At minicamp, Landry was working at strong safety with Taylor moving to free safety where it is hoped he will make more plays. "We had to use Sean in the box an awful lot last year," Williams said. "We'd like to have better ball production this year. I'd like to put Sean in a position more to go get the ball. I think LaRon will help us do that. He can cover tight ends and wide receivers. He gives us more flexibility because he can do so many things."

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Rock Cartwright took a kickoff 100 yards to the house en route to a team record for kickoff return yards. He had 1,541 yards on 64 returns. Randle El took a punt 87 yards for a score. Punter Derrick Frost survived a shaky camp to have a solid season, averaging 42.9 yards per punt with a net of 36.7. The coverage units and snapper Ethan Albright maintained their excellence. But the best news was Shaun Suisham, who made 8-of-9 field-goal tries in December and might just have stopped the long-revolving door at kicker.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

The players genuinely like each other and respect Gibbs. However, the Redskins are 22-28 since his return, 6-10 in the NFC East, 11-14 in games decided by a touchdown or less, numbers that all pale in comparison to his first glorious tenure. The schedule includes nine games against playoff teams and has Washington on the road in five of seven games from Oct. 14-Nov. 25. If the defensive fixes don't work, the offense won't prevent a third losing season in four years and a possible early retirement for Gibbs.

RATING: Minus 1

— David Elfin

2006 RESULTS

Record: 5-11

Sep. 11	MINNESOTA	16-19
Sep. 17	at Dallas	10-27
Sep. 24	at Houston	31-15
Oct. 1	JACKSONVILLE (OT)	36-30
Oct. 8	at N.Y. Giants	3-19
Oct. 15	TENNESSEE	22-25
Oct. 22	at Indianapolis	22-36
Oct. 29	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 5	DALLAS	22-19
Nov. 12	at Philadelphia	3-27
Nov. 19	at Tampa Bay	17-20
Nov. 26	CAROLINA	17-13
Dec. 3	ATLANTA	14-24
Dec. 10	PHILADELPHIA	19-21
Dec. 17	at New Orleans	16-10
Dec. 24	at St. Louis (OT)	31-37
Dec. 30	N.Y. GIANTS	28-34

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	at Tennessee (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 18	PITTSBURGH (Sat.)	8:00
Aug. 25	BALTIMORE (Sat.)	8:00
Aug. 30	at Jacksonville (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 9	MIAMI	1:00
Sep. 17	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	8:30
Sep. 23	N.Y. GIANTS	4:15
Sep. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	DETROIT	1:00
Oct. 14	at Green Bay	12:00
Oct. 21	ARIZONA	1:00
Oct. 28	at New England	4:15
Nov. 4	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Nov. 11	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Nov. 18	at Dallas	12:00
Nov. 25	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Dec. 2	BUFFALO	1:00
Dec. 6	CHICAGO (Thu.)	8:15
Dec. 16	at N.Y. Giants	8:15
Dec. 23	at Minnesota	12:00
Dec. 30	DALLAS	1:00

NFC NORTH

WHO CAN CATCH THE BEARS?

The five-game cushion between the Chicago Bears and the rest of the NFC North was the biggest in the NFC last year. It would have been seven games had the second-place Green Bay Packers not won the meaningless season finale when Bears quarterback Rex Grossman admitted to day-dreaming.

It's unlikely the Bears can maintain that edge in coach Lovie Smith's fourth season. At 13-3, they don't have as much room to improve as the rest of the division does.

The question is which teams can mount a challenge. The 8-8 Packers, 6-10 Minnesota Vikings and 3-13 Detroit Lions all believe they have made significant off-season strides.

For starters, the division added the two highest-rated players in the draft when Detroit grabbed Georgia Tech receiver Calvin Johnson and Minnesota took Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson.

CHICAGO BEARS

The Bears showed a lot of confidence in Cedric Benson by trading two-time 1,300-yard rusher Thomas Jones to the New York Jets. Benson hasn't done much to justify his selection as the fourth pick in the 2005 draft, but the Bears think it's time to give him his chance.

Likewise, Lovie Smith had enough confidence in linebackers coach Bob Babich to decide not to re-sign defensive coordinator Ron Rivera. General manager Jerry Angelo had enough confidence in the franchise tag system to ignore threats by Pro Bowl linebacker Lance Briggs.

The club also hasn't lost confidence in Rex Grossman, who will try to become the first quarterback to win a Super Bowl after losing one since John Elway.

DETROIT LIONS

If at first you don't succeed with Charles Rogers, you try again with Roy Williams and try again with Mike Williams and try again with Calvin Johnson. The Lions collect wide receivers and now will line up with the top NFC receiver in yardage in Roy Williams, the top NFC receiver in catches in Mike Furrey, plus Johnson.

If the Lions can pass well enough not to worry about running and defense, more power to them. They will have invented a new way to play football.

Coach Rod Marinelli won't allow his defense to finish 28th again, badly trailing the Bears (fifth), Vikings (eighth) and Packers (12th). But he needs defensive tackle Shaun Rogers to play hard for a whole season and offensive coordinator Mike Martz to call at least a few running plays for newcomer Tatum Bell.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

General manager Ted Thompson and coach Mike McCarthy are glad to have Brett Favre back again, but didn't take Favre's advice to sign Randy Moss. They also didn't overreact to the loss of running back Ahman Green to Houston, preferring to replace him by committee.

If Favre perceives this as a lack of urgency, this might indeed be his final fling. He needs only six more touchdown passes to catch Dan Marino's record 420. Favre's major hurdle is getting past his 38th birthday on Oct. 10. A whole lot of great quarterbacks including Marino have struggled once they hit 38.

In a division that emphasizes defense, the Packers are building a front seven that rivals the Bears. Nothing has held them back more than poor special teams.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

If the Bears are confident, Vikings coach Brad Childress is downright gutsy to go into a season without an established quarterback or receiver on his roster. Getting rid of Daunte Culpepper and Randy Moss seemed like good ideas at the time, but the Vikings are still trying to replace both.

Childress likes last year's second-round quarterback Tarvaris Jackson so much he passed up Brady Quinn this year for Adrian Peterson, who should help any quarterback. He's the team's first home-run threat since Moss.

Nobody stopped the run better than the Vikings, led by stout tackles Pat Williams and Kevin Williams. Running and stopping the run are the first two elements of sound football.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Will Rex Grossman smooth out the rough edges?

Yes, but. He shouldn't be as inconsistent, but it will be almost impossible for him to take the Bears back to the Super Bowl.

2. Will Calvin Johnson or Adrian Peterson make a faster impact?

Peterson. The Vikings are ready to run. The Lions already have Roy Williams, so it might take time for Johnson to work into the offense.

3. Which team is most likely to catch the Bears?

The Packers. They didn't add many big names, but Brett Favre is still the best quarterback in the division.

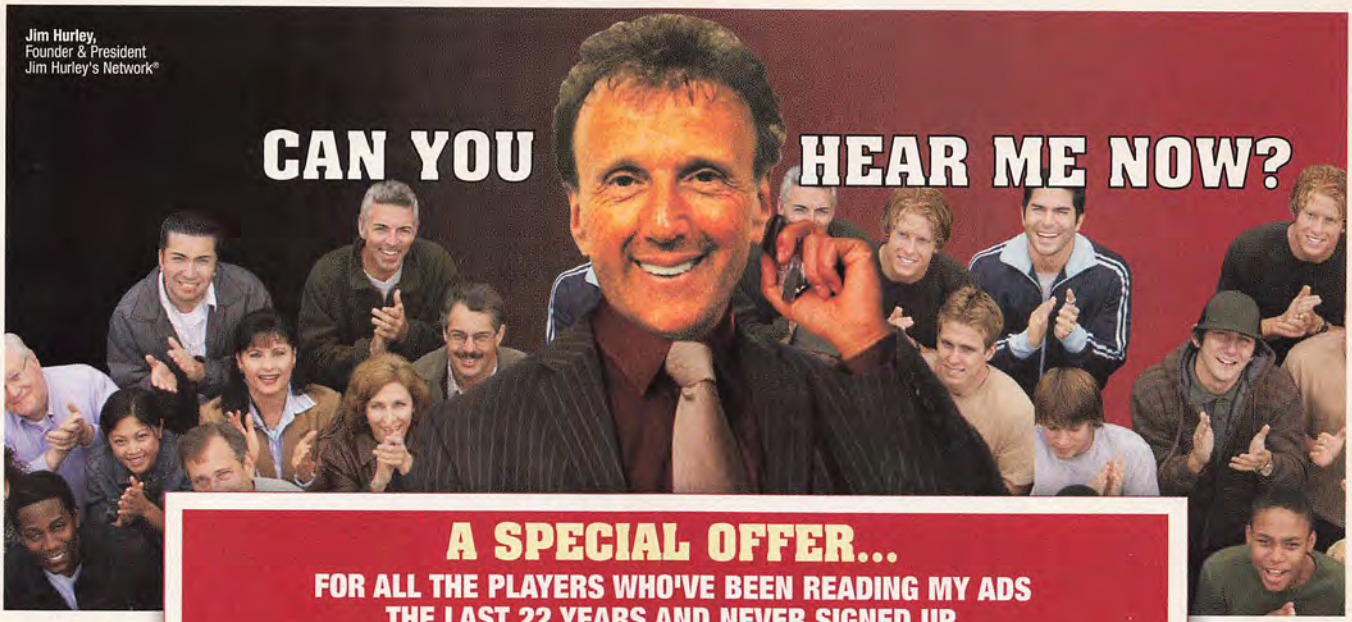
4. How many NFC North quarterbacks have started against Favre?

In the 15 years that he has played every game for the Packers, he has faced 47 different quarterbacks with the Bears (20), Lions (15) and Vikings (12).

5. Who is most improved?

Lions, but they have the farthest to go.

— Don Pierson



A SPECIAL OFFER...

FOR ALL THE PLAYERS WHO'VE BEEN READING MY ADS THE LAST 22 YEARS AND NEVER SIGNED UP.

I GUARANTEE you must clear at least $3,000 *based on my money management* **or you get the College Bowls and NFL Playoffs Absolutely FREE!**

YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT HAS COST YOU TO IGNORE ME?

If you had joined Jim Hurley's Network® when we started in '85 and played my phone service, **you'd have cleared well over $100,000,** based on $100 bets - and some guys have made double and triple that.

JIM HURLEY'S NETWORK ISN'T JUST GOOD. THE RECORD SAYS WE MAY BE THE BEST.

Over the last 22 years - while hundreds of other services have come and gone - we have had only ONE losing season - and that barely. We broke the game wide open in '85 by picking more winners than any service in the country (as per AADSS) and we haven't stopped since.

WE WERE THE... 1st

- **... to computerize.**
- **... to employ full time scouts.**
- **... with a football search engine (TRENDSEARCH).**
- **... to use advanced analytic tools like fuzzy logic and genetic algorithms.**

So this is not seat of the pants. This is state of the art. We are not talking a once-in-a-while lucky shot... but systematic year-in year-out profits that a man can build a better life on. Can you hear me now? Then make up for ALL the Jim Hurley winners you've been missing.

COME IN FOR A FULL SEASON OF MY GOLD KEY CLUB SELECTIONS FOR THE SPECIAL EARLY BIRD RATE OF ONLY $195

that's a savings of $300 off the regular full season rate. And just look at the package!

- **4-5-6 picks every week** of the regular season up to Dec 30th
- **Mondays/Thursdays** et al - if we like them strong enough
- **The PRE-SEASON** my 20+ best. (14-6 in '06!)

BONUSES:

- **Pre-Season Game Of The Year** Won '06 Eagles (+3) Steelers 16-7
- **September College Golden Game** Won '06 L'ville (-14) Kan St 24-6
- **September NFL Golden Game** Won '06 Jets (+6) Bills 28-20
- **September Conference Parlay** Won '06 Tenn (+3 ½) Florida 20-21 Won Vandy (+5 ½) Arkansas 19-21
- **A Season Subscription (22 Issues) to my Network Bulletin Newsletter:**

A $99 value! *Includes college/NFL preview issues.*

Exclusive power ratings, picks all college/NFL games, Best Bets/Upset Specials. Midweek update! By mail, e mail or on line. A $99 value!

PLUS 22 WEEK POWER PACK:

- **Golden Games Every Month!** 9-1 in '06!
- **Bi-weekly Profit Review** - We're On Your Case!
- **Early Moves** - beat the syndicates!
- **Superstat Lock** - The 100% Play
- **Big Six Supergames** - 6-0 Last Year
- **Blown Line Game** -Vegas's biggest mistake

We start with the Hall of Fame Game at Canton Ohio August 5th Saints vs Steelers. Thereafter, you're on a roll that won't end till you have had the Season Of Your Life! Can you hear me now? Then pick up the phone!

Still the same address after 22 years!

Jim Hurley's Network®:
366 N Broadway Ste 410
Jericho NY 11753

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-323-4453

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER American Express

Direct Line: 1-516-749-8094
Or sign up online www.JimHurley.com

Jimmy Vaccaro, *dean of Las Vegas linesmakers, says:* "You swear at the guy because he beats you. Then you swear BY him because his numbers are so good."

College & Pro Football Newsweekly *writes:* "Jim Hurley knows how to put ten kinds of information together to get one kind of result... winners."

Street & Smith *writes:* "Better information and deeper analysis have made Jim Hurley a tough act to follow."

CHICAGO BEARS

2006 RECORD: 15-4 | STADIUM: Soldier Field, 61,500, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

NFC NORTH | www.chicagobears.com

AT A GLANCE

Halas Hall
1000 Football Drive
Lake Forest, IL 60045
(847) 295-6600

TRAINING CAMP:
Olivet Nazarene University; Bourbonnais, IL

COACH:
Lovie Smith, 4th year with Bears and as NFL head coach (31-21)

PRESIDENT:
Ted Phillips

GENERAL MANAGER:
Jerry Angelo

DIRECTOR OF PRO PERSONNEL:
Bobby DePaul

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Greg Gabriel

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Ron Turner	Offensive coordinator	7	7
Pep Hamilton	Quarterbacks	5	1
Harry Hiestand	Offensive line	3	3
Luke Butkus	Assistant offensive line	1	1
Tim Spencer	Running backs	4	4
Darryl Drake	Receivers	4	4
Rob Boras	Tight ends	4	4
Charles London	Offensive quality control	1	1
Bob Babich	Defensive coordinator	5	4
Brick Haley	Defensive line	1	1
Hardy Nickerson	Linebackers	1	1
Steven Wilks	Secondary	2	2
Gill Byrd	Assistant secondary	5	2
Lloyd Lee	Nickel backs	4	4
Dave Toub	Special teams coordinator	7	4
Kevin O'Dea	Assistant. special teams	14	2
Rusty Jones	Strength & Conditioning	23	3
Jim Arthur	Strength & Conditoning	3	3

Questions Surround NFC Champion Bears

Unlike last season, when the Bears took a crucial step from an 11-5 playoff qualifier to a 13-3 Super Bowl participant, Lovie Smith's team won't have all 22 starters back in 2007.

The leading rusher of the past two seasons, Thomas Jones, was traded. The starting nose tackle, Tank Johnson, served 60 days in jail during the off-season, and the Bears were hoping he would avoid a league suspension on top of that for his off-the-field foibles. Two-time Pro Bowl weak-side linebacker Lance Briggs has threatened to sit out the season rather than grovel for $7.2 million as the Bears' franchise player.

Stud defensive tackle Tommie Harris, who also was voted to the past two Pro Bowls, is returning from last year's season-ending hamstring surgery, and safety Mike Brown, a Pro Bowl pick in 2005, is working back from a season-ending foot injury.

COACHING

Lovie Smith has a new, long-term deal through 2011 worth about $5 million a year, and he's got his own guy as the defensive coordinator, Bob Babich, who was promoted from linebackers coach. More than ever, this is Smith's team from top to bottom, for better or worse.

It's difficult to imagine that this year's staff is better without former defensive coordinator Ron Rivera, who was not rehired, and quarterbacks coach Wade Wilson, but it should be more in synch with Smith's coaching philosophy. Still, with five new assistants, continuity could be a concern.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

Rex Grossman has shown the ability to direct the Bears' offense with surgical precision, but he has also demonstrated too frequently a disastrous tendency to self-destruct.

"He's still our starting quarterback," general manager Jerry Angelo said, "and we hope that all that he went through in terms of his game experience will manifest itself into the off-season, and he'll take another step."

But Grossman probably won't be allowed to throw another 20 interceptions this season. The Bears shelled out serious money before the 2006 season to bring in experienced veteran Brian Griese as the backup, and they probably won't let him languish on the bench this season if Grossman and the offense sputter.

Kyle Orton has the best size and strongest arm at the position, but he never took a snap in 2006. Injuries forced him to start 15 games, including 10 victories as a rookie in '05, but last year he learned by observing.

RATING: 7

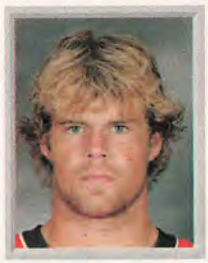
RUNNING BACKS

This year, the Bears will hand the ball and the featured role to Cedric Benson, the fourth overall

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:

TE Greg Olsen



He could quickly emerge as the stretch-the-field, pass-catching tight end the Bears' offense has always lacked. Olsen has the size, speed and hands to take heat off the wide receivers by making opponents respect the deep middle.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
DT Anthony Adams, S Adam Archuleta

KEY LOSS:

RB Thomas Jones (16/16)*
He wasn't spectacular, but he was a productive warrior who carried the ball 610 times for 2,545 yards over the past two seasons. If Cedric Benson goes down for any length of time, Jones will be missed.

OTHER LOSSES
DT Alfonso Boone (12/4), WR Justin Gage (8/0), S Todd Johnson (12/6), TE Gabe Reid (13/1), DT Ian Scott (15/7), S Cameron Worrell (16/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
21; 10 offense, 11 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

pick in the 2005 draft. His own nagging injuries and the back-to-back productive seasons by Thomas Jones limited Benson to a backup role, but his 157 carries last season were an increase of 90 over his rookie season.

"He's had some injuries," Angelo said. "So I can't say there isn't some concern."

Benson is bigger, faster and a more powerful runner than Jones, and the Bears are convinced that his time is now. Benson has missed time with shoulder and knee injuries, but he was a workhorse for four years at Texas.

Six-year veteran Adrian Peterson, a record-setting runner at Georgia Southern, but mostly a special teams standout in the NFL, should move into the backup role. He's been an effective change-of-pace and third-down back in limited playing time in the past.

At 5-7, third-round draft pick Garrett Wolfe was too small for a lot of teams, but too productive at Northern Illinois for the Bears to pass him up. He has home-run ability if they can find a niche for him.

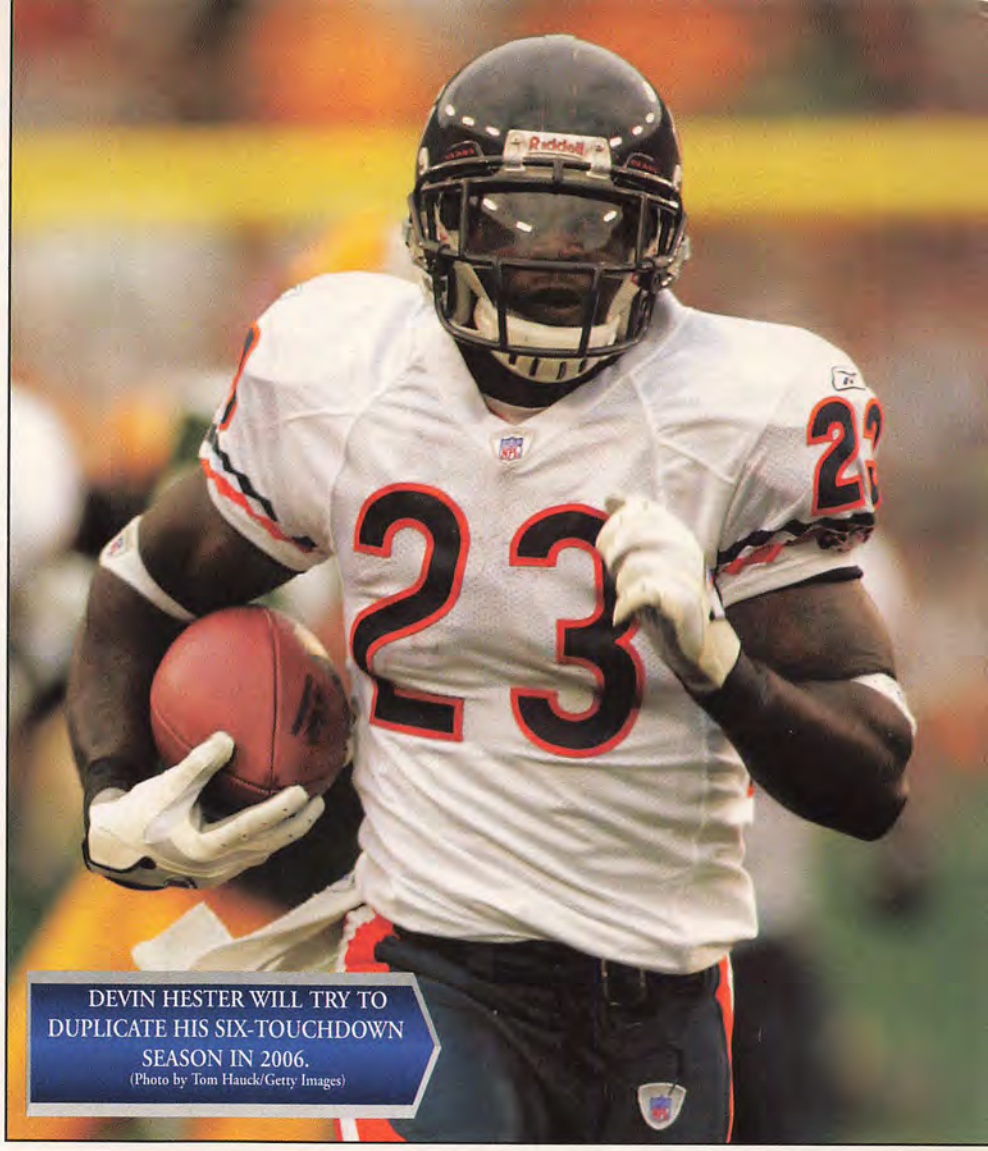
RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

Muhsin Muhammad is still a tough, physical threat in the middle of the field, but he's no longer a true No. 1 wideout. Muhammad still led the team with 60 catches and 863 receiving yards last season, and he is still more than a possession receiver and capable of making difficult catches in traffic. Skinny, speedy Bernard Berrian took another big step last season (51 catches, 775 yards, 15.2-yard average) and could be on the verge of becoming a go-to receiver if he can stay healthy. Mark Bradley is big, fast and strong, but he rebounded slowly from a season-ending knee injury in 2005 that derailed a promising rookie season and then was hampered by a separate knee injury. Bradley, who can also stretch the field, only caught 14 passes last season, but three went for scores, and he averaged 20.1 yards per catch. Rashied Davis is a tough, little slot receiver with a knack for making big plays at crucial times.

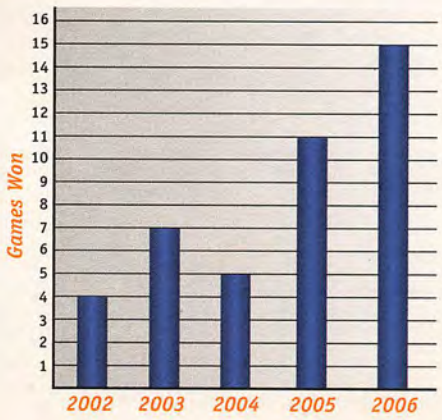
Tight end Desmond Clark, a nine-year veteran, enjoyed the most successful of his four seasons with the Bears (45 catches, 626 yards and six touchdowns). But he's 30 and has lots of mileage, so the Bears pounced on Miami's Greg Olsen with the 31st overall pick. He is potentially the most dangerous pass-catching tight end the Bears have had since Mike Ditka, and his deep speed can open things up for the wideouts.

RATING: 6.5



DEVIN HESTER WILL TRY TO DUPLICATE HIS SIX-TOUCHDOWN SEASON IN 2006.
(Photo by Tom Hauck/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2005,2006*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This is still an above-average unit, but time may be running out. Among the current starters, only right guard Robert Garza will be under 30 when training camp gets under way. Left guard Ruben Brown is already 35, and left tackle John Tait is 32. Right tackle Fred Miller will be 34 this season, and center Olin Kreutz is heading into his 10th NFL season and will be 30 before camp starts. But they started 14 games together last season and work cohesively as a unit, even though six-time Pro Bowler Kreutz is the only standout in the group.

None of the backups shows much promise as a starter, with the possible exception of guard Terrence Metcalf, so it's imperative that the aging starters hold together for one more season.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The focal point of the line, tackle Tommie Harris, saw his second straight Pro Bowl season end prematurely with a torn hamstring. It wasn't a coincidence that the defense plummeted statistically after Harris was hurt. He should make a full recovery by training camp, but the timetable is uncertain. A bigger question mark at tackle is Tank Johnson. Because the Bears weren't sure if the league would suspend Johnson or for how long, they signed unrestricted free agent Anthony Adams. He was a full-time starter with the 49ers in 2005 before they converted to a 3-4 scheme. When Johnson is on the field, Adams should be a valuable player in the rotation, where the Bears like to use four players. Backup tackle Alfonso Boone left via free agency, but the hope is that Dusty Dvoracek, a third-round draft choice who spent last season on injured reserve, will play effectively in the rotation this year. He remains an unknown quantity.

Right end Alex Brown and left end Adewale

Bears Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
86	Angulo, Richard (TE)	6-8	260	4	Western New Mexico	0/0	FA 07	D7 STL 03	Huge target with some athleticism, but has never established himself.
80	**Berrian, Bernard**	**6-1**	**185**	**4**	**Fresno State**	**15/14**	**D3 04**	**D3 CHI 04**	**Fast deep threat made huge strides last season and could become go-to guy.**
16	Bradley, Mark	6-2	198	3	Oklahoma	10/0	D2 05	D2 CHI 05	Plateaued during injury-marred '06, but is big and fast with home-run ability.
88	**Clark, Desmond (TE)**	**6-3**	**249**	**9**	**Wake Forest**	**16/16**	**UFA,MIA 03**	**D6 DEN 99**	**Coming off best season in years, but might not have much left.**
81	Davis, Rashied	5-9	183	3	San Jose State	16/2	OFA 05	OFA CHI 05	Converted DB made some clutch plays in the slot with toughness, quickness.
85	Gilmore, John (TE)	6-5	257	6	Penn State	16/3	FA 02	D6 NO 02	Big, physical blocker isn't much of a factor in passing game.
87	**Muhammad, Muhsin**	**6-2**	**215**	**12**	**Michigan State**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D2 CARO 96**	**He's on the decline, but still a major factor who can make the big catch.**
82	Olsen, Greg (TE)	6-6	254	R	Miami	0/0	D1 07	D1 CHI 07	Athletic rookie with outstanding pass-catching skills, who could impact soon.
84	Rideau, Brandon	6-3	200	2	Kansas	0/0	FA 07	OFA CLV 05	Possession receiver with very good size and strength.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
67	Beekman, Josh (G)	6-2	313	R	Boston College	0/0	D4 07	D4 CHI 07	Limited athlete, but ideal toughness and strength to become starter inside.
70	Brant, Aaron (G)	6-7	320	R	Iowa State	0/0	D7 07	D7 CHI 07	Smart and hard working, has great size, but lacks agility and quickness.
74	**Brown, Ruben (G)**	**6-3**	**300**	**13**	**Pittsburgh**	**16/16**	**FA 04**	**D1 BUFF 95**	**Went to ninth Pro Bowl and at 35, he's still effective in limited space.**
63	**Garza, Roberto (G)**	**6-2**	**305**	**7**	**Texas A&M-Kingsville**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D4 ATL 01**	**Strong run blocker made smooth transition to fit in with veteran unit.**
57	**Kreutz, Olin (C)**	**6-2**	**292**	**10**	**Washington**	**16/16**	**D3 98**	**D3 CHI 98**	**Perennial Pro Bowler is a tough, nasty team leader on and of the field.**
60	Metcalf, Terrence (G)	6-3	318	6	Mississippi	16/0	D3 02	D3 CHI 02	Solid backup has started in the past despite some inconsistency.
69	**Miller, Fred (T)**	**6-7**	**314**	**12**	**Baylor**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D5 STL 96**	**Big, strong run blocker who's getting old and struggles with speed.**
68	Oakley, Anthony (C/G)	6-4	298	2	Western Kentucky	0/0	FA 06	OFA CLV 04	Developmental player who didn't see any game action in '06.
78	St. Clair, John (T)	6-5	315	8	Virginia	16/2	FA 05	D3 STL 00	Swing tackle who is capable on both sides, but isn't starter material.
76	**Tait, John (T)**	**6-6**	**312**	**9**	**Brigham Young**	**14/14**	**TFA,KC 04**	**D1 KC 99**	**Better on the right side, but is more than adequate on the left in both phases.**
RUNNING BACKS									
32	**Benson, Cedric**	**5-11**	**220**	**3**	**Texas**	**15/0**	**D1 05**	**D1 CHI 05**	**Capable of being a workhorse, who can pound it between the tackles.**
47	*Johnson, Bryan (FB)	6-1	244	7	Boise State	0/0	T,WSH 04	OFA CLV 00	Has battled foot injuries for most of the past two years.
37	**McKie, Jason (FB)**	**5-11**	**243**	**5**	**Temple**	**15/12**	**FA 03**	**OFA PHA 02**	**Solid lead blocker has good strength; can catch and has some run skills.**
29	Peterson, Adrian	5-10	210	6	Georgia Southern	16/0	D6 02	D6 CHI 02	Excels as change-of-pace, third-down guy in limited role.
48	Runnells, J.D. (FB)	5-11	240	2	Oklahoma	2/0	D6 06	D6 CHI 06	Finesse type player who has better pass-catching than run skills.
25	Wolfe, Garrett	5-7	186	R	Northern Illinois	0/0	D3 07	D3 CHI 07	Undersized situational player, who has excellent big-play capabilities.
QUARTERBACKS									
14	Griese, Brian	6-3	214	10	Michigan	6/0	FA 06	D3 DEN 98	Limited arm strength, but is accurate and has been productive.
8	**Grossman, Rex**	**6-1**	**217**	**5**	**Florida**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 CHI 03**	**Finally stayed healthy, but bounced between brilliant and horrible.**
18	Orton, Kyle	6-4	217	3	Purdue	0/0	D4 05	D4 CHI 05	Forced to observe all year after being force fed as a rookie.
	O'Sullivan, J.T.	6-2	227	5	Cal-Davis	0/0	FA 07	D6 NO 02	Has shown flashes in the past and in NFL Europa this spring.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
73	Adams, Anthony (T)	6-0	297	5	Penn State	14/5	UFA,SF 07	D2 SF 03	Former starter; active and disruptive, but miscast in 49ers' 3-4 scheme.
97	Anderson, Mark (E)	6-4	255	2	Alabama	16/1	D5 06	D5 CHI 06	Phenomenal rookie season included 12 sacks as situational rusher.
79	Bazuin, Dan (E)	6-3	266	R	Central Michigan	0/0	D2 07	D2 CHI 07	High-motor, productive player who is disruptive behind the line.
96	**Brown, Alex (E)**	**6-3**	**260**	**6**	**Florida**	**16/16**	**D4 02**	**D4 CHI 02**	**Solid vs. run, gets pressures on quarterback, but not many sacks.**
98	*Dvoracek, Dusty (T)	6-3	303	2	Oklahoma	0/0	D3 06	D3 CHI 06	Strong scrapper could make rotation after rookie season on injured reserve.
90	Garay, Antonio (T)	6-3	303	4	Boston College	4/0	FA 06	D6 CLV 03	Tough guy can stuff the run, but doesn't get much pressure as a pass rusher.
91	***Harris, Tommie (T)**	**6-3**	**295**	**4**	**Oklahoma**	**12/11**	**D1 04**	**D1 CHI 04**	**Disruptive, active and stout; already one of the NFC's top three-techniques.**
71	Idonije, Israel (E)	6-6	270	4	Manitoba	13/1	FA 04	OFA CLV 03	Valuable as versatile backup and an athletic special teamer.
99	**Johnson, Tank (T)**	**6-3**	**300**	**4**	**Washington**	**14/10**	**D2 04**	**D2 CHI 04**	**Rare run stuffer who can also rush; must overcome character concerns.**
93	**Ogunleye, Adewale (E)**	**6-4**	**260**	**7**	**Indiana**	**14/14**	**T,MIA 04**	**OFA MIA 00**	**Gifted pass rusher whose production plummeted last season.**
LINEBACKERS									
94	Ayanbadejo, Brendon (O)	6-1	228	5	UCLA	16/1	T,MIA 06	OFA ATL 99	Almost exclusively a special-teamer, but he's a great one.
55	**Briggs, Lance (O)**	**6-1**	**240**	**5**	**Arizona**	**16/16**	**D3 03**	**D3 CHI 03**	**Great run-hit ratio and has become a complete three-down player.**
92	**Hillenmeyer, Hunter (O)**	**6-4**	**238**	**5**	**Vanderbilt**	**15/14**	**FA 03**	**D5 GB 03**	**Consistent, underrated, smart, two-down player.**
53	Joe, Leon (O)	6-1	230	4	Maryland	10/0	W,ARIZ 05	D4 CHI 04	Lacks bulk, but has great speed and contributes mostly on special teams.
58	McClover, Darrell (O)	6-2	226	4	Miami	7/0	FA 06	D7 NYJ 04	Undersized player with speed, who contributed on special teams.
62	Okwo, Michael	5-11	232	R	Stanford	0/0	D3 07	D3 CHI 07	Undersized and will get muscled, but is very quick and active.
54	**Urlacher, Brian (M)**	**6-4**	**258**	**8**	**New Mexico**	**16/16**	**D1 00**	**D1 CHI 00**	**Six-time Pro Bowler with the speed and skill to take over a game.**
52	*Williams, Jamar	6-0	234	2	Arizona State	3/0	D4 06	D4 CHI 06	Showed potential before landing on injured reserve with early-season injury.
59	Wilson, Rod (M)	6-2	230	3	South Carolina	13/0	D7 05	D7 CHI 05	Lacks size, but can run and made an impact on special teams.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
20	**Archuleta, Adam (S)**	**6-0**	**215**	**7**	**Arizona State**	**16/7**	**T,WSH 07**	**D1 STL 01**	**Big, tough, physical in-the-box strong safety with limited coverage ability.**
30	***Brown, Mike (S)**	**5-10**	**207**	**8**	**Nebraska**	**6/6**	**D2 00**	**D2 CHI 00**	**When he's healthy, he's physical and the brains of the secondary.**
22	Everett, Tyler (S)	5-11	202	1	Ohio State	3/0	FA 06	OFA DEN 06	Contributed on special teams after late promotion from practice squad.
35	Graham, Corey (CB)	6-0	195	R	New Hampshire	0/0	D5 07	D5 CHI 07	Isn't very physical, but has good speed, instincts and athleticism.
46	Harris, Chris (S)	6-0	205	3	Louisiana-Monroe	11/7	D6 05	D6 CHI 05	Can deliver the big hit and has some range, but will miss tackles.
23	Hester, Devin (CB/KR)	5-11	186	2	Miami	16/0	D2 06	D2 CHI 06	Still raw as defensive back and could bring awesome tools to offense.
38	Manning, Danieal (S)	5-11	196	2	Abilene Christian	16/14	D2 06	D2 CHI 06	Not very physical as a safety, but runs well enough to switch to cornerback.
24	Manning, Ricky (CB)	5-9	188	5	UCLA	15/6	RFA,CARO 06	D3 CARO 03	Upgraded pass defense with solid nickel play, but isn't a starter.
26	McBride, Trumaine (CB)	5-9	185	R	Mississippi	0/0	D7 07	D7 CHI 07	Undersized and has marginal speed, but good quickness, instincts.
36	*McGowan, Brandon (S)	5-11	205	3	Maine	1/0	OFA 05	OFA CHI 05	Production has been severely limited by long history of injury.
44	Payne, Kevin (S)	6-0	220	R	Louisiana-Monroe	0/0	D5 07	D5 CHI 07	Big, athletic physical hitter who could be a force in the box.
33	**Tillman, Charles (CB)**	**6-1**	**196**	**5**	**Louisiana-Lafayette**	**14/14**	**D2 03**	**D2 CHI 03**	**Ideal Cover-2 corner with size and toughness to support run.**
31	**Vasher, Nathan (CB)**	**5-10**	**180**	**4**	**Texas**	**14/13**	**D4 04**	**D4 CHI 04**	**Superior ball athlete, who can cover and will hit despite lack of size.**
21	Wesley, Dante (CB)	6-1	210	6	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	13/0	UFA,CARO 06	D4 CARO 02	Big cornerback lacks coverage ability, but is a valuable special-teamer.
SPECIALISTS									
	Filipovic, Filip (P)	6-2	216	2	South Dakota	0/0	FA 07	OFA DALL 02	Big, strong-legged competition for Maynard.
9	Gould, Robbie (K)	6-1	183	3	Penn State	16/0	FA 05	OFA NE 05	Displayed strong leg and emerged as quality Pro Bowler.
65	Mannelly, Patrick (LS)	6-5	265	10	Duke	16/0	D6 98	D6 CHI 98	About as close to perfect as anyone in the league.
4	Maynard, Brad (P)	6-1	186	11	Ball State	16/0	UFA,NYG 01	D3 NYG 97	Solid pro rebounded in '06 from subpar season.
	Novak, Nick (K)	6-0	190	3	Maryland	6/0	FA 07	OFA CHI 05	Powerful leg, but lacks Gould's consistency and accuracy.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs David Ball (New Hampshire), Mike Hass (1, Oregon State), Drisan James Boise State), Jayson Swain (Tennessee); TE Fontel Mines (Virginia); OT Mark LeVoir (1, Notre Dame); OG Tyler Reed (1, Penn State); QB Chris Leak (Florida); RBs Josh Allen (Maryland), Gerald Riggs (1, Tennessee); DEs Copeland Bryan (1, Arizona), Chris Frome (Notre Dame), Tyler McMeans (1, Miami); DT Tory Collins (Northwestern State (La.); LB Danny Verdun Wheeler (Georgia); CBs Greg Fassitt (Grambling), Tim Mixon (California); Ss Andrew Shanle (Nebraska), Jay Staggs (Nevada-Las Vegas); P Joel Stelly (1, Louisiana-Monroe)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*The running game's success with Cedric Benson replacing Thomas Jones as the main man. Jones rushed for 2,545 yards the past two seasons, but Benson is considered a better fit in Ron Turner's offense, which places a priority on banging the ball between the tackles.

*How well one of the league's best defenses plays for new coordinator Bob Babich. There is a chance Babich will be without two key starters for part of the season, defensive tackle Tank Johnson (possible suspension) and linebacker Lance Briggs, who has threatened to hold out.

*How well the aging offensive line holds up after the long grind of 2006, which may have taken a toll on what has been a strong unit. Consider that four of the five starters will be 30 or older, and there is little depth or youth in the pipeline.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Rex Grossman

Bears coach Lovie Smith was adamant through thick and thin last season that Rex Grossman was his quarterback, period. But the former first-round pick will probably not be given the luxury of throwing another 20 interceptions in 2007.

For now, Smith is counting on last year's experience in the pressure cooker of a Super Bowl team making Grossman a better quarterback, and he remains quick to point out that 2006 was the former first-round pick's first year as a full-time starter.

"Rex had an outstanding season for a first-year quarterback in the National Football League," Smith said. "I'll put his numbers up against most guys that started in their first year. Most first-year quarterbacks don't take their team to the Super Bowl. I'm excited about Rex's second year in the starting role."

Grossman had several memorable performances in '06 worth getting excited over. He had an NFC-best seven games with a passer rating over 100. But he also had disastrous games with ratings of 10.2, 36.8, 23.7, 1.3 and 0.0. In those five games he threw 16 interceptions and just one touchdown pass. In the other 11 regular-season games, Grossman threw 22 touchdown passes and just four picks.

Ogunleye need to play up to their salaries this season. They're both solid against the run, but combined for just 13.5 sacks, barely more than the 12 that fifth-round rookie sensation and pass-rush specialist Mark Anderson had all by himself.

RATING: 8

LINEBACKERS

With Briggs around for a full season, this will again be an outstanding unit, led by Brian Urlacher, who is the face of the Bears and one of the NFL's impact defenders. After six Pro Bowls, Urlacher still believes he's getting better. Briggs comes close to matching Urlacher tackle for tackle, but he doesn't make as many game-changing plays or have as much range. Hunter Hillenmeyer is under-appreciated on the strong side, but he's smart, reliable and fundamentally sound.

The only problem, which becomes magnified if Briggs sits out, is that there is no reliable depth here. "Do I feel like somebody could come in and fill Lance's shoes?" Angelo said. "No. We have to see that. It's hard to replace Pro Bowl players when (or if) you lose them."

RATING: 9 (with Briggs)

SECONDARY

The top three corners — Charles Tillman, Nate Vasher and nickel back Ricky Manning Jr. — form an outstanding group. Trading for Adam Archuleta provides a big, physical, in-the-box run stopper. He'll either take over for injury-prone Mike Brown or allow him to move to free safety.

"They're both excellent football players," said Smith, who was the Rams' defensive coordinator during Archuleta's best seasons. "Both of them are competitors. We think both fit in our system. I'm excited about seeing them have a chance to play together."

There is plenty of depth, including Danieal Manning, who started 14 games at free safety as a rookie last year, and Chris Harris, a 13-game starter as a rookie in '05.

RATING: 8

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Robbie Gould, return specialist Devin Hester (NFL-record six kick-return touchdowns) and coverage ace Brendon Ayanbadejo all went to the Pro Bowl from what was arguably the best special-teams unit in the NFL. Punter Brad Maynard is a solid veteran and long-snapper Pat Mannelly is nearly perfect.

RATING: 10

INTANGIBLES

There was a tremendous amount of off-season turmoil for a Super Bowl team, significant turnover in the coaching staff, and the 2007 schedule is more difficult than last season's creampuff.

RATING: Minus 2

— Bob LeGere

2006 RESULTS

Record: 15-4

Sep. 10	at Green Bay	26- 0
Sep. 17	DETROIT	34- 7
Sep. 24	at Minnesota	19-16
Oct. 1	SEATTLE	37- 6
Oct. 8	BUFFALO	40- 7
Oct. 16	at Arizona	24-23
Oct. 22	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	SAN FRANCISCO	41-10
Nov. 5	MIAMI	13-31
Nov. 12	at N.Y. Giants	38-20
Nov. 19	at N.Y. Jets	10- 0
Nov. 26	at New England	13-17
Dec. 3	MINNESOTA	23-13
Dec. 11	at St. Louis	42-27
Dec. 17	TAMPA BAY (OT)	34-31
Dec. 24	at Detroit	26-21
Dec. 31	GREEN BAY	7-26
Jan. 14	SEATTLE (OT)	27-24
Jan. 21	NEW ORLEANS	39-14
Feb. 4	Indianapolis, at Miami	17-29

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	at Houston (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 20	at Indianapolis (Mon.)	7:00
Aug. 25	SAN FRANCISCO (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 30	CLEVELAND (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	at San Diego	1:15
Sep. 16	KANSAS CITY	3:15
Sep. 23	DALLAS	7:15
Sep. 30	at Detroit	1:00
Oct. 7	at Green Bay	7:15
Oct. 14	MINNESOTA	12:00
Oct. 21	at Philadelphia	4:15
Oct. 28	DETROIT	12:00
Nov. 4	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 11	at Oakland	1:15
Nov. 18	at Seattle	5:15
Nov. 25	DENVER	12:00
Dec. 2	N.Y. GIANTS	3:15
Dec. 6	at Washington (Thu.)	8:15
Dec. 17	at Minnesota (Mon.)	7:30
Dec. 23	GREEN BAY	12:00
Dec. 30	NEW ORLEANS	12:00

DETROIT LIONS

2006 RECORD: 3-13 | STADIUM: Ford Field, 65,000, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

NFC NORTH | www.detroitlions.com

AT A GLANCE

222 Republic Drive
Allen Park, MI 48101
(313) 216-4000

TRAINING CAMP:
Lions Headquarters and Training Facility; Allen Park, MI

COACH:
Rod Marinelli, 2nd year with Lions and as NFL head coach (3-13)

PRESIDENT/CEO:
Matt Millen

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/COO:
Tom Lewand

SR. VICE PRESIDENT/ASST. GENERAL MANAGER:
Martin Mayhew

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Sheldon White

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Scott McEwen

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Mike Martz	Offensive coordinator	16	2
Adam Gase	Quarterbacks	5	5
Jim Colletto	Offensive line	8	1
Mike Barry	Assistant offensive line	2	2
Pat Carter	Tight ends	4	2
Wilbert Montgomery	Running backs	11	2
Kippy Brown	Receivers	15	2
Tim Martz	Offensive quality control	1	1
Shawn Jefferson	Offensive assistant	3	3
Joe Barry	Defensive coordinator	8	1
Joe Cullen	Defensive line	2	2
Phil Snow	Linebackers	3	3
Clayton Lopez	Secondary	7	2
Don Clemons	Defensive quality control	23	23
Fred Reed	Defensive assistant	2	2
Stan Kwan	Special teams	17	8
Sam Gash	Special teams assistant	3	1
Jason Arapoff	Physical development	20	7
Malcolm Blacken	Strength & Conditioning	12	7

Will Lions Finally Reward Their Patient Fans?

The last thing Detroit Lions fans want to hear is, "Be patient." They have been patient long enough.

It has been 50 years now since the Lions' last NFL championship. They have won only one playoff game in that span.

And the Lions have gone 24-72 since Matt Millen took over as team president in 2001. They are just two losses short of the NFL record for losses in a six-year period, set by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1983-88.

Detroiters have watched Millen repeatedly make mistakes and try to fix them — hiring three coaches, drafting four Top-10 receivers and so on — and they have made "Fire Millen!" a rallying cry.

But Millen and second-year coach Rod Marinelli are confident they are building something in the Motor City. They have made major changes this offseason and hope it will finally reflect in their record this year.

COACHING

Marinelli came to Detroit last year with no head coaching experience but a clear idea of what he wanted in his team.

He has preached football character — desire, toughness, work ethic — and he showed he meant business this off-season. Most of the malcontents are gone — Dre' Bly, Mike Williams, James Hall, Marcus Bell. Almost all of the locker-room soap operas have been cancelled.

Offensive coordinator Mike Martz commands respect from his players because of his success in St. Louis, where he earned the reputation as an offensive genius for directing the "Greatest Show on Turf." Martz is demanding, but his players marvel at his knowledge.

Joe Barry replaces Donnie Henderson as defensive coordinator. There was some snickering at the hire, because Barry is Marinelli's son-in-law. But this wasn't a family favor. Barry comes from Tampa Bay and is a tried-and-true Tampa 2 guy, while Henderson was not.

RATING: 6

QUARTERBACKS

The coaches are committed to Jon Kitna. They played him every snap at quarterback last season, even when he struggled in the fourth quarter, even when the season was lost, even though he was 34.

Kitna was asked to throw often with poor protection and a weak running game. He finished with 4,208 yards, second-most in team history, but his touchdown-to-interception ratio was 21-to-22. More than anything, the coaches like the leadership Kitna brings.

Josh McCown did not like standing on the side-

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR Calvin Johnson

When the Lions took Johnson second overall, they got the best player in the draft and another weapon for Mike Martz's offense. Teamed with Roy Williams, it should give the Lions one of the best 1-2 punches in the league.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
RB Tatum Bell, CB Tony Beckham, TE Eric Beverly, CB Ike Charlton, RB T.J. Duckett, CB Travis Fisher, T George Foster, WR Shaun McDonald, G Edwin Mulitalo, WR Marcus Robinson, WR Cliff Russell

KEY LOSS:
QB Josh McCown (2/0)*
Trading McCown to Oakland left the Lions with Dan Orlovsky and rookie Drew Stanton as their backup quarterbacks. Orlovsky has thrown only 17 NFL passes.

OTHER LOSSES
DT Marcus Bell (13/7), CB Dre' Bly (16/16), WR Corey Bradford (9/2), G Rick DeMulling (14/7), CB Jamar Fletcher (13/2), RB Arlen Harris (10/3), S Terrence Holt (16/15), G Tyrone Hopson (0/0), DE Tyoka Jackson (15/0), S Jon McGraw (16/3), TE Marcus Pollard (15/5), FB Cory Schlesinger (14/5), G Ross Verba (7/7), WR Mike Williams (8/2)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 11 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

line and got his wish to be traded. That leaves the Lions with Dan Orlovsky and rookie Drew Stanton as their backups. Orlovsky has thrown only 17 NFL passes — none since his rookie year.

The Lions feel the short-term risk is worth the long-term gain. They need Orlovsky or Stanton to develop as their quarterback of the future.

RATING: 7

RUNNING BACKS

The Lions' top three running backs all suffered serious injuries last season — Kevin Jones (foot), Shawn Bryson (knee) and Brian Calhoun (knee). By the end, the Lions were picking guys up off the street and handing them the ball.

Jones' injury is especially tricky. By all accounts he is healing well and hopes to be back for training camp. But no one knows for sure.

The Lions got insurance by acquiring Tatum Bell in a trade and T.J. Duckett in free agency. Bell brings home-run ability. He gets around the corner quickly. Duckett brings a change of pace. He could be great in short-yardage situations.

Ideally, Jones will be healthy and Bell will complement him. Duckett can come in to get the tough yards. But if Jones isn't healthy, Bell and Duckett can handle the load. Bryson could be the fullback. Calhoun's status is uncertain.

RATING: 6.5

RECEIVERS

Maybe Millen finally has what he has always wanted — a super receiving corps.

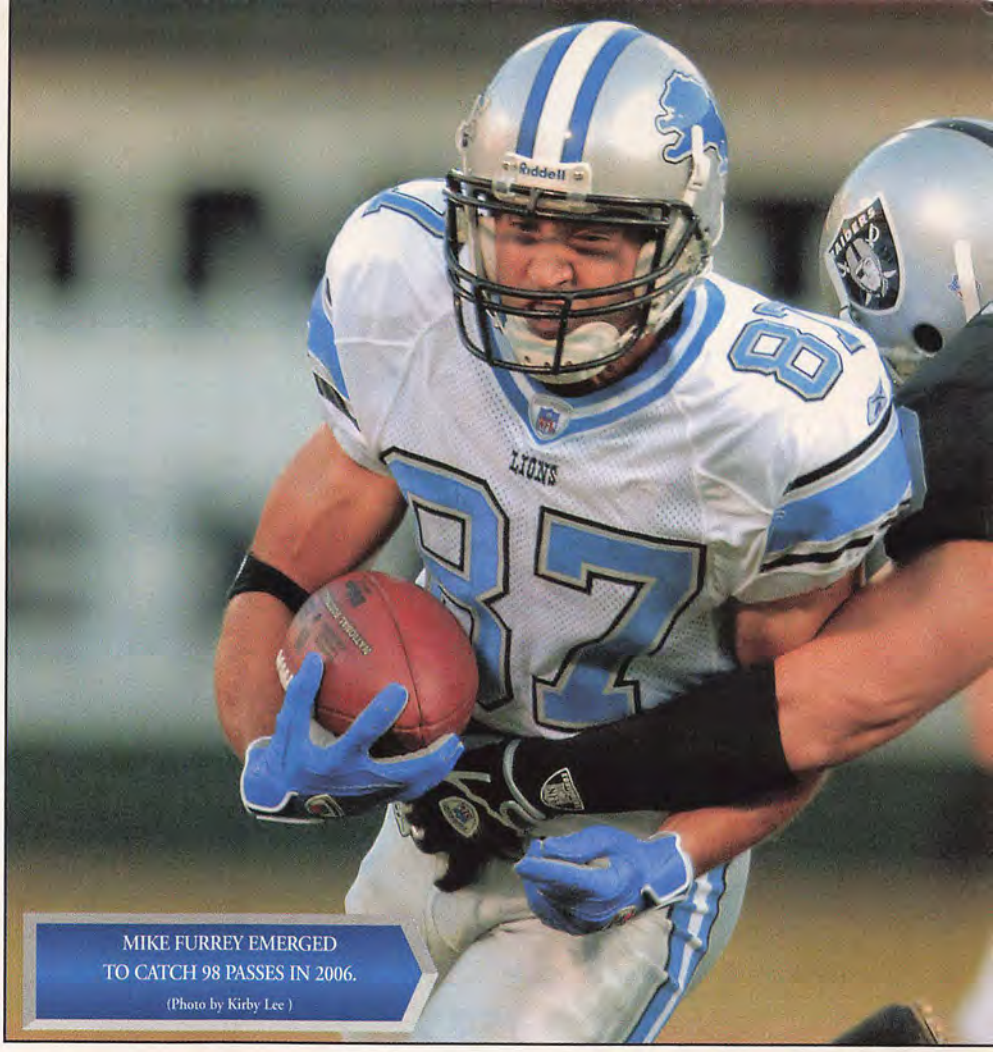
When he drafted Calvin Johnson second overall, it was the fourth time in five years he had taken a wide receiver in the Top 10. Charles Rogers and Mike Williams were busts. But Roy Williams went to the Pro Bowl as an alternate last season, and Johnson has the potential to be special.

Johnson should open up the offense. When the Lions go three-wide, they will have the best player in the draft (Johnson) opposite the NFC receiving yards leader from last season (Williams), with the NFC receptions leader from last season (Mike Furrey) in the slot. Have fun defending that.

The biggest impact might be felt in the red zone, however. The Lions struggled scoring touchdowns last season, and Johnson can jump up and grab those passes.

The Lions also added potential depth with Shaun McDonald and Marcus Robinson.

RATING: 8



MIKE FURREY EMERGED TO CATCH 98 PASSES IN 2006.
(Photo by Kirby Lee)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

After giving up 63 sacks and ranking last in rushing last season, the Lions went to work on the offensive line. They fired position coach Larry Beightol and replaced him with Jim Colletto. They released Ross Verba and brought in George Foster and Edwin Mulitalo.

Damien Woody went to Duke University to attend a weight-loss program. His off-season goal was to go from 378 pounds to 315, so he could regain the Pro Bowl form he once showed in New England. If he loses the weight, he could be a factor. If not, he could be gone.

Left tackle and center are set with Jeff Backus and Dominic Raiola, respectively. The rest is up in the air. Woody could move from right guard to left guard. Mulitalo could be one starting guard, with youngsters Frank Davis and Stephen Peterman as backups. Four guys are in the mix at right tackle — Foster, Rex Tucker, Barry Stokes and Jonathan Scott.

RATING: 6.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

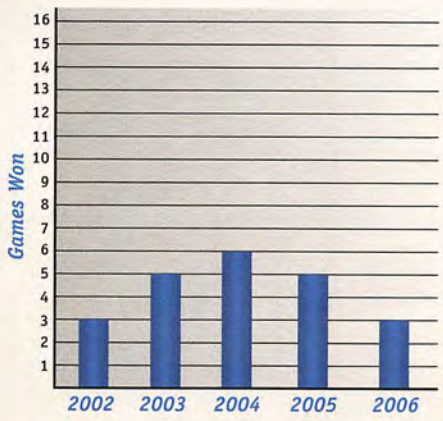
The Lions could have the best tackle tandem in the league with Cory Redding and Shaun Rogers — if Rogers is motivated. Redding blossomed after moving from end to tackle last season. He was so good the Lions designated him their franchise player to keep him from getting away in free agency. When Rogers is on, he's a monster. Shaun Cody has gone from starter to backup, but he remains in the rotation.

The question mark is at end. Dewayne White was a big free-agent addition. Marinelli mentored him in Tampa Bay as the Buccaneers' defensive line coach. White not only knows what Marinelli expects, he sounds like him when he speaks. He should be a good example for his teammates. But he has never been a full-time starter.

Kalimba Edwards hasn't developed as hoped, and the Lions desperately need him to. The Lions drafted Ikaika Alama-Francis, who is athletic but raw, having played football only since 2003. After spending his rookie year on injured reserve, Bill Swancutt will show what he can do.

RATING: 7

WINS PER YEAR



**** Made Playoffs:***

Lions Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
47	Beverly, Eric (TE)	6-3	300	11	Miami (Ohio)	16/2	FA 07	OFA DET 97	Is favorite to win No. 3 tight end job, and provide leadership.
89	**Campbell, Dan (TE)**	**6-5**	**265**	**9**	**Texas A&M**	**16/0**	**UFA,DALL 06**	**D3 NYG 99**	**Tough, productive. Despite injured elbow, averaged 14.7 yards per catch last year.**
18	Drummond, Eddie	5-9	190	6	Penn State	14/0	OFA 02	OFA DET 02	Speedy return man hasn't starred since 2004 when he made the Pro Bowl.
80	Ellis, Devale	5-10	174	2	Hofstra	9/2	FA 06	OFA DET 06	Has a chance to be slot receiver in Mike Martz's offense, but has stiff competition, too.
82	Fitzsimmons, Casey (TE)	6-4	258	5	Carroll	11/2	OFA 03	OFA DET 03	Impressed the coaching staff in camp last season before suffering hand injury.
87	Furrey, Mike	6-0	195	5	Northern Iowa	16/14	FA 06	OFA IND 00	Went from the XFL and Arena League to leading the NFC in receptions last year with 98.
81	**Johnson, Calvin**	**6-5**	**239**	**R**	**Georgia Tech**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 DET 07**	**Second overall pick, widely considered best player in draft, should open up offense.**
85	Kasper, Kevin	6-1	202	5	Iowa	1/1	FA 07	D6 DEN 01	Fitness freak has a great physique and good speed, but not much of an NFL resume.
84	McDonald, Shaun	5-10	183	5	Arizona State	16/0	UFA,STL 07	D4 STL 03	Yet another former Ram rejoins Mike Martz in Detroit. Solid in slot as fourth receiver.
86	Robinson, Marcus	6-3	215	11	South Carolina	10/3	FA 07	D4 CHI 97	Veteran knows NFC North after years with Bears and Vikings. Has 43 career touchdowns.
19	Russell, Cliff	5-11	195	6	Utah	3/0	FA 07	D3 WSH 02	Faces uphill battle to make the team, but Martz can't have enough receivers in stable.
83	Sanders, Darnell (TE)	6-6	270	4	Ohio State	0/0	FA 07	D4 CLV 02	Hasn't played in the NFL since 2004 and hasn't caught a pass since 2003.
15	Shepherd, Edell	6-1	175	4	San Jose State	7/0	FA 07	OFA CHI 02	Another light, quick receiver to compete for a spot in the slot. Only 13 career catches.
11	**Williams, Roy**	**6-3**	**211**	**4**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 DET 04**	**Went to Pro Bowl as alternate last season after leading NFC with 1,310 receiving yards.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
76	**Backus, Jeff (T)**	**6-5**	**305**	**7**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 DET 01**	**Matt Millen's first draft pick has started every game at left tackle over his six seasons.**
61	Davis, Frank (G)	6-3	325	2	South Florida	11/3	OFA 06	OFA DET 06	The big, raw prospect from Panama showed some promise when he played late last year.
72	**Foster, George (T)**	**6-5**	**338**	**5**	**Georgia**	**16/13**	**T,DEN 07**	**D1 DEN 03**	**Started 13 games for Denver last season and expected to start at right tackle in Detroit.**
64	***Mulitalo, Edwin (G)**	**6-3**	**345**	**9**	**Arizona**	**4/4**	**FA 07**	**D4 BLT 99**	**Veteran has experience with offensive line coach Jim Colletto from Baltimore.**
63	Noll, Ben (G/T)	6-4	315	3	Penn	0/0	FA 07	OFA STL 04	Ivy Leaguer has bounced around on Dallas, St. Louis and Detroit practice squads.
60	Pearson, Dave (C)	6-3	287	1	Michigan	2/0	FA 06	OFA DET 04	Grew up in Detroit area, went to Michigan and made NFL debut with Lions last year.
66	Peterman, Stephen (G)	6-4	323	3	Louisiana State	3/2	FA 06	D3 DALL 04	Impressed coaches and management late last season, especially with attitude.
51	**Raiola, Dominic (C)**	**6-1**	**295**	**7**	**Nebraska**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 DET 01**	**Undersized but smart at center, Raiola is an intense leader and an offensive captain.**
71	Ramirez, Manny (G)	6-3	326	R	Texas Tech	0/0	D4 07	D4 DET 07	Tough, hard-nosed competitor that the coaches keep calling a "road grader."
67	*Saipaia, Blaine (G/T)	6-3	315	4	Colorado State	6/4	FA 06	OFA NO 00	Has experience in Mike Martz's offense from St. Louis, started four games last year.
73	Scott, Jonathan (T)	6-6	318	2	Texas	13/4	D5 06	D5 DET 06	Started four games last year and suffered hip injury in finale. Recovery is going well.
77	Stickdorn, Clint (T)	6-5	307	1	Cincinnati	1/0	FA 06	OFA CLV 05	Practice-squad guy expected to be on regular roster only in a pinch.
68	*Stokes, Barry (G)	6-4	310	9	Eastern Michigan	11/11	UFA,ATL 06	OFA DET 96	Veteran valuable for his versatility. Can play just about anywhere on the line.
74	*Tucker, Rex (G)	6-5	315	9	Texas A&M	6/5	UFA,STL 06	D3 CHI 99	Lions like his talent and attitude, but his body isn't dependable. Always injured.
65	***Woody, Damien (G)**	**6-3**	**340**	**9**	**Boston College**	**5/5**	**UFA,NE 04**	**D1 NE 99**	**Trying to lose weight to get back into Pro Bowl form. Future in Detroit depends on it.**
RUNNING BACKS									
28	Bell, Tatum	5-11	213	4	Oklahoma State	13/13	T,DEN 07	D2 DEN 04	More than insurance for Kevin Jones. Brings home-run speed, can get around corner.
24	***Bryson, Shawn (FB)**	**6-1**	**230**	**9**	**Tennessee**	**6/1**	**UFA,BUFF 03**	**D3 BUFF 99**	**Veteran is coming off knee injury. Expected to be starting FB without Schlesinger.**
29	*Calhoun, Brian	5-10	208	2	Wisconsin	7/0	D3 06	D3 DET 06	Puzzling third-round pick last year didn't fit in offense as well as expected, hurt knee.
36	Cason, Aveion	5-10	204	6	Illinois State	6/2	FA 06	OFA STL 01	Veteran filled in last year when top three running backs suffered serious injuries.
45	Duckett, T.J.	6-0	254	6	Michigan State	10/0	UFA,WSH 07	D1 ATL 02	Could be a change-of-pace back and short-yardage specialist, but doesn't want label.
34	***Jones, Kevin**	**6-0**	**228**	**4**	**Virginia Tech**	**12/12**	**D1 04**	**D1 DET 04**	**Recovering from serious foot injury. Hopes to be back for training camp, but can't be sure.**
49	McHugh, Sean (FB/TE)	6-5	265	2	Penn State	6/2	FA 06	D7 TENN 04	Versatility as tight end or fullback could be valuable as move guy in this offense.
QUARTERBACKS									
8	**Kitna, Jon**	**6-2**	**220**	**11**	**Central Washington**	**16/16**	**UFA,CIN 06**	**OFA SEA 96**	**After two years as backup in Cincinnati, took every snap as starter last season in Detroit.**
6	Orlovsky, Dan	6-5	230	3	Connecticut	0/0	D5 05	D5 DET 05	Replaces Josh McCown as the backup, but has only 17 NFL throws - none since 2005.
5	Stanton, Drew	6-3	226	R	Michigan State	0/0	D2 07	D2 DET 07	Lions love his leadership qualities and willingness to learn. Project for the future.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
94	Alama-Francis, Ikaika (E)	6-5	280	R	Hawaii	0/0	D2 07	D2 DET 07	Lean and athletic, Francis could play either end and even under tackle.
77	Bradley, Jon (T)	6-0	301	4	Arkansas State	7/3	FA 07	OFA PHA 04	Another of Rod Marinelli's Tampa Bay pupils adds depth.
75	*Cody, Shaun (T)	6-4	310	3	Southern Cal	6/5	D2 05	D2 DET 05	Coming off bad toe injury. Went from starter to backup, but expected to rotate at tackle.
95	DeVries, Jared (E)	6-4	275	9	Iowa	14/9	D3 99	D3 DET 99	Veteran end just works hard and gets job done. Valuable on special teams, too.
98	**Edwards, Kalimba (E)**	**6-6**	**265**	**6**	**South Carolina**	**16/10**	**D2 02**	**D2 DET 02**	**Has all the physical tools to be great pass rusher, but still hasn't developed as hoped.**
70	Harriott, Claude (E)	6-3	260	1	Pittsburgh	0/0	FA 06	D5 CHI 04	Caught coach Rod Marinelli's eye and needs to keep catching it amid competition.
96	Lewis, Marcus (T)	6-3	295	2	Urbana	0/0	FA 07	OFA CIN 06	Another defensive tackle prospect to muddle the middle during training camp.
79	Moore, Langston (T)	6-1	305	4	South Carolina	3/0	FA 06	D6 CIN 03	Has some experience with Cincinnati and Arizona, including nine NFL starts.
62	Pinkney, Cleveland (T)	6-1	300	4	South Carolina	9/0	FA 07	OFA IND 01	Has experience with Rod Marinelli from Tampa Bay, saw time last year due to injuries.
78	**Redding, Cory (T)**	**6-4**	**295**	**5**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**D3 03**	**D3 DET 03**	**Dominated after moving from end to tackle last year, became franchise player.**
92	***Rogers, Shaun (T)**	**6-4**	**340**	**7**	**Texas**	**6/6**	**D2 01**	**D2 DET 01**	**Coming off suspension for dietary supplement and injury. Can be great, if motivated.**
93	Smith, Corey (E)	6-2	250	5	North Carolina State	7/1	FA 06	OFA TB 02	Another of Rod Marinelli's former Tampa Bay pupils filled in because of injuries last year.
90	*Swancutt, Bill (E)	6-4	265	3	Oregon State	0/0	D6 05	D6 DET 05	Spent last season on injured reserve with knee injury. Lions eager to see what he can do.
91	**White, Dewayne (E)**	**6-2**	**273**	**5**	**Louisville**	**16/8**	**UFA,TB 07**	**D2 TB 03**	**Says Rod Marinelli molded him into a man and player in Tampa. First chance to start.**
LINEBACKERS									
97	**Bailey, Boss (O)**	**6-3**	**235**	**5**	**Georgia**	**16/12**	**D2 03**	**D2 DET 03**	**Move to middle didn't work out last season. Back at natural position on the outside.**
52	Baldwin, Johnny	6-2	232	R	Alabama A&M	0/0	D5 07	D5 DET 07	Lions noticed him on bad, windblown tape from Alabama A&M; loved his hitting.
99	Cannon, Anthony	6-0	228	2	Tulane	12/0	D7 06	D7 DET 06	Seventh-round pick played in 12 games last season, largely because of injuries.
55	Curry, Donte' (O)	6-1	240	7	Morris Brown	16/0	W,WSH 02	OFA DET 01	The Lions' most vocal player on the practice field, Curry was special teams captain.
54	**Lehman, Teddy (M)**	**6-1**	**238**	**4**	**Oklahoma**	**4/0**	**D2 04**	**D2 DET 04**	**Lions say he's finally over serious foot injury and ready to run down the middle.**
53	Lenon, Paris (M)	6-2	235	6	Richmond	16/16	UFA,GB 06	OFA CAR 00	The guy who once worked the midnight shift in a post office is still delivering hits.
59	Lewis, Alex (O)	6-0	230	4	Wisconsin	11/3	D5 04	D5 DET 04	Lions like his athleticism on strong side with Bailey. But as with Bailey, injury history.
50	**Sims, Ernie (O)**	**6-0**	**225**	**2**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 DET 06**	**Last year's No. 9 pick came just as advertised - a relentless competitor and tackler.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
42	Alexander, Gerald (S)	6-2	204	R	Boise State	0/0	D2 07	D2 DET 07	Boise State safety made impression with Fiesta Bowl hit on Adrian Peterson.
44	Bashir, Idrees (S)	6-2	198	6	Memphis	0/0	FA 07	D2 IND 01	Needs to make an impression in training camp to win a spot at safety.
41	Beckham, Tony (CB)	6-1	195	3	Wisconsin-Stout	0/0	FA 07	D4 TENN 02	Another player in the wide-open competition for depth at cornerback.
25	***Bryant, Fernando (CB)**	**5-11**	**184**	**9**	**Alabama**	**9/9**	**UFA,JAX 04**	**D1 JAX 99**	**Not a ballhawk and small, but the kind of good tackler needed at corner in Tampa 2.**
27	**Bullocks, Daniel (S)**	**6-0**	**212**	**2**	**Nebraska**	**15/7**	**D2 06**	**D2 DET 06**	**The 2006 second-round pick takes over for Terrence Holt as starter at free safety.**
47	Charlton, Ike (CB)	6-0	205	5	Virginia Tech	0/0	FA 07	D2 SEA 00	Has bounced around league a lot; back for another try.
33	Davis, A.J. (CB)	5-10	193	R	North Carolina State	0/0	D4 07	D4 DET 07	The knock is that he doesn't support run well, but coaches disagree, say he's willing.
21	*Fisher, Travis (CB)	5-10	189	6	Central Florida	9/9	UFA,STL 07	D2 STL 02	Has experience in Tampa 2 defense from St. Louis. Starting nickel back for now.
26	**Kennedy, Kenoy (S)**	**6-1**	**215**	**8**	**Arkansas**	**10/9**	**UFA,DEN 05**	**D2 DEN 00**	**Veteran strong safety hasn't been the ferocious hitter in Detroit he was in Denver.**
32	McCann, Dee (CB)	5-10	200	1	West Virginia	0/0	FA 06	D6 DET 06	Spent last season on practice squad. Could end up back there again, but has a shot.
35	Pruitt, Etric (S)	6-0	197	3	Southern Mississippi	0/0	FA 07	D6 ATL 04	After stints with Atlanta and Seattle, spent last year on Lions' practice squad.
38	Robinson, Ramzee (CB)	5-10	186	R	Alabama	0/0	D7 07	D7 DET 07	Mr. Irrelevant might not be that irrelevant, considering competition at corner.
23	Smith, Keith (CB)	5-11	191	4	McNeese State	16/0	D3 04	D3 DET 04	Has been a good special teams player, but not much more. Needs to develop.
31	**Wilson, Stanley (CB)**	**5-11**	**189**	**3**	**Stanford**	**13/4**	**D3 05**	**D3 DET 05**	**Currently slated to replace Dre' Bly as starting corner, but must hold off competition.**
SPECIALISTS									
4	Hanson, Jason (K)	6-0	190	16	Washington State	16/0	D2 92	D2 DET 92	Still going strong in 16th season with the Lions. Would be nice if he had more big kicks.
2	Harris, Nick (P)	6-2	218	6	California	16/0	FA 03	D4 DEN 01	After an outstanding 2005, started slowly in 2006 and then rounded back into form.
48	Muhlbach, Don (LS)	6-4	265	4	Texas A&M	16/0	FA 04	OFA BLT 04	The man once called the "Nolan Ryan of long snappers" is quick and dependable.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Terry Moss (Ball State); TEs Rodney Burgess (Coastal Carolina), George Cooper (Georgia Tech), Rudy Sylvan (Ohio); OT Courtney Ford (Eastern Michigan); QB Phil Horvath (Northern Illinois); RB Anthony Sherrell (1, Eastern Michigan); DE Matthew Rice (1, Penn State); DT Marcus Parker (1, New Mexico); LB James Hargrave (1, Connecticut); CB LaMarcus Hicks (1, Iowa State); P John Derneay (North Carolina State); PK Kenny Byrd (New Mexico)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Whether running back Kevin Jones will recover from his foot injury in time for the season opener. If everyone is healthy, the big question is how the Lions will use Jones, Tatum Bell and T.J. Duckett.

*The Lions open the season Sept. 9 at Oakland. The question is whether quarterback Josh McCown and wide receiver Mike Williams will make them pay for not playing them in Detroit and trading them to the Raiders. Both went to Oakland on draft day for a fourth-round pick.

*Everyone has been hearing about defensive end Kalimba Edwards' potential for years. If coach Rod Marinelli, a defensive line guru, can't get through to him this season, the question is whether it will ever happen.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Shaun Rogers

Shaun Rogers is a freakish athlete. He has the talent to be one of the most dominant players in the NFL at his position. But too often he doesn't make the most of that talent, taking plays off, series off, games off. He took some time off at the start of the off-season conditioning program, too.

Rogers also let the team down last season when he tested positive for a banned dietary supplement, served a four-game suspension, had surgery during the suspension and never came back.

There are no excuses now. Rogers has had knee and shoulder procedures. He should be healthy and ready to go. The Lions have cleared some bad influences out of the locker room and surrounded him with good ones.

Everyone is saying the right things. Rogers told a Detroit radio station: "Me and Coach Rod have no problems. I don't see any. There's been tales of some, but me and him have had no kind of conflict." Marinelli told the media: "My opinion, Shaun's going to take off. I believe that with all my heart. My expectations for him are so high. He's going to dominate every snap."

We'll see.

LINEBACKERS

The Lions don't think middle linebacker is as big a need as others do. Teddy Lehman is healthy after battling a foot injury, and they think he or Paris Lenon can handle what the Tampa 2 requires.

Ernie Sims fits the mold of Derrick Brooks in this system. He was a tackling machine as a rookie last year. He led the Lions with 124 — 48 more than anyone else.

On the strong side are Boss Bailey and Alex Lewis. Both have speed, but both have long injury histories, too. The Lions thought Bailey could be a prototypical Tampa 2 middle linebacker and tried him there last season, but he never felt comfortable and they moved him back to his natural position.

As a whole, this whole group simply has to make more plays.

RATING: 6.5

SECONDARY

Dre' Bly wasn't a Tampa 2 corner. He preferred playing man-to-man coverage to the zone, run-stuffing role the Lions gave him last season. But when the Lions traded him, they got rid of their best playmaker in the secondary.

Now their starting corners are Fernando Bryant and Stanley Wilson. Travis Fisher, who played in this system in St. Louis, is the nickel back. The Lions needed corners in the draft, but they landed only two second-day picks.

Daniel Bullocks replaces Terrence Holt as the starting free safety. Kenoy Kennedy returns at strong safety. Rookie Gerald Alexander should be in the mix. The Lions took notice of the Boise State prospect when he lit up running back Adrian Peterson in the Fiesta Bowl.

RATING: 6.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jason Hanson has become an institution in Detroit. For 15 seasons, no matter how good or bad the team has been, no matter how weird the situation, he has been a reliable kicker. He shows no signs of slowing down. Nick Harris is a solid punter and holder. Don Muhlbach is a solid snapper.

The pressure is on kick returner Eddie Drummond, who hasn't starred since he made the Pro Bowl during the 2004 season, but there is no heir apparent.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

Marinelli is changing the culture in the locker room, but he has a long way to go to change the culture in the city. The fans are fed up with the losing. They are hoarse from screaming "Fire Millen!" Some say the negative environment is a reason why the team loses, but the only way to change it is to win.

RATING: Plus 2

— Nicholas Cotsonika

2006 RESULTS

Record: 3-13

Sep. 10	SEATTLE	6- 9
Sep. 17	at Chicago	7-34
Sep. 24	GREEN BAY	24-31
Oct. 1	at St. Louis	34-41
Oct. 8	at Minnesota	17-26
Oct. 15	BUFFALO	20-17
Oct. 22	at N.Y. Jets	24-31
Oct. 29	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 5	ATLANTA	30-14
Nov. 12	SAN FRANCISCO	13-19
Nov. 19	at Arizona	10-17
Nov. 23	MIAMI	10-27
Dec. 3	at New England	21-28
Dec. 10	MINNESOTA	20-30
Dec. 17	at Green Bay	9-17
Dec. 24	CHICAGO	21-26
Dec. 31	at Dallas	39-31

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	CINCINNATI (Thu.)	7:30
Aug. 18	at Cleveland (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 25	at Indianapolis (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 30	BUFFALO (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	at Oakland	1:15
Sep. 16	MINNESOTA	4:05
Sep. 23	at Philadelphia	1:00
Sep. 30	CHICAGO	1:00
Oct. 7	at Washington	1:00
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Oct. 28	at Chicago	12:00
Nov. 4	DENVER	1:00
Nov. 11	at Arizona	2:15
Nov. 18	N.Y. GIANTS	4:15
Nov. 22	GREEN BAY (Thu.)	12:30
Dec. 2	at Minnesota	12:00
Dec. 9	DALLAS	1:00
Dec. 16	at San Diego	1:15
Dec. 23	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Dec. 30	at Green Bay	12:00

GREEN BAY PACKERS

2006 RECORD: 8-8 | STADIUM: Lambeau Field, 72,928, Grass Master | PROJECTED FINISH: 3rd

NFC NORTH | www.packers.com

AT A GLANCE

1265 Lombardi Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54304
(920) 569-5700

TRAINING CAMP:
St. Norbert College; De Pere, WI

COACH:
Mike McCarthy, 2nd year with Packers and as NFL head coach (8-8)

GENERAL MANAGER:
Ted Thompson

VICE PRESIDENT PLAYER FINANCE/GENERAL COUNSEL:
Andrew Brandt

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
John Dorsey

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Reggie McKenzie

PERSONNEL ANALYST TO GM:
John Schneider

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Joe Philbin	Offensive coordinator	5	5
Tom Clements	Quarterbacks	11	2
James Campen	Offensive line	4	4
Jerry Fontenot	Assistant line	2	2
Edgar Bennett	Running backs	7	7
Jimmy Robinson	Receivers	18	2
Ben McAdoo	Tight ends	4	2
Ty Knott	Offensive quality control	6	2
Bob Sanders	Defensive coordinator	7	3
Winston Moss	Asst. head coach/defense	9	2
Carl Hairston	Defensive ends	13	2
Robert Nunn	Defensive tackles	8	3
Kurt Schottenheimer	Secondary	21	3
Lionel Washington	Cornerbacks/nickel	9	9
Eric Lewis	Defensive quality control	2	2
Mike Stock	Special teams coordinator	17	2
Shawn Slocum	Special teams assistant	2	2
Rock Gullickson	Strength & Conditioning	8	2
Mark Lovat	Strength & Conditioning	9	9
Brandon Johnson	Strength & Conditioning	2	2

Favre Back, But Will the Packers Be?

The Green Bay Packers won their final four games under new coach Mike McCarthy last year and finished 8-8.

But the question is whether this team is treading water until the Brett Favre era ends, possibly after this season, or whether it has a legitimate shot at the post-season.

General manager Ted Thompson took the team through an unusually uneventful off-season — he made no free-agent signings or trades of note, and he lost declining, but still productive halfback Ahman Green in free agency.

Nevertheless, Thompson also has totally remade the roster in his two-plus years as general manager, mainly in the draft. In each of his three drafts, he's traded down to accrue extra picks and has selected 34 players in those three lotteries, including 11 more this year.

But for a team that finished 22nd in the NFL in scoring and lost its starting halfback, there's reason to question whether the Packers will have any more offensive punch than they did struggling through last season.

"This team is improving," Thompson said of his patient roster building. "Sometimes it's in big steps, sometimes it's in little steps."

It's become clear that as Favre's career winds toward its end and the Packers prepare for life without him, Thompson is building a defensive-oriented team for the cold weather of northeastern Wisconsin.

In this year's draft, after his preferred first-round pick, halfback Marshawn Lynch of California, went off the draft board at pick No. 12, Thompson turned to defense and selected tackle Justin Harrell of Tennessee at No. 16.

COACHING

In his rookie season as coach, McCarthy if nothing else kept the team together at the end of the season, when despite being out of the playoffs, the Packers won their final four games to finish 8-8. The offense should function better than last season, especially early in the year, now that the players are in their second season in McCarthy's system. McCarthy lost offensive coordinator Jeff Jagodzinski, who installed the Alex Gibbs zone-blocking scheme in the run game last year — Jagodzinski was named head coach at Boston College — and replaced him by promoting offensive line coach Joe Philbin. Philbin is a low-key, but highly respected member of the coaching staff who will coordinate the run game.

Bob Sanders suffered through some growing pains last year in his first season as defensive coordinator in the NFL, but finally made a crucial move by replacing defensive end Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila with Cullen Jenkins as the primary right defensive end on early downs for the final four wins.

RATING: 6.5

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
DT Justin Harrell
Surprise selection in the first-round needs to be a difference maker early if the Packers are going to make up for their lack of offensive playmakers.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
CB Frank Walker

KEY LOSS:
RB Ahman Green (14/14)*
Though he wasn't the player last year that he was in his prime, Green still was a solid back. The Packers are looking for a running back duo of Vernand Morency and second-round pick Brandon Jackson to make up for his loss.

OTHER LOSSES:
DT Kenderick Allen (2/0), QB Todd Bouman (0/0), LB Kurt Campbell (0/0), FB William Henderson (14/9), TE David Martin (11/4), LB Ben Taylor (10/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 9 offense, 11 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

QUARTERBACKS

Favre is back for his 17th NFL season and 16th as the Packers' starter at a salary of $11 million. It could be his final season, though if the Packers look like they could contend for a Super Bowl in 2008, there's always the chance he'll return for another season. At age 37 — he turns 38 in October — Favre still has good arm strength, and though he no longer makes big plays out of nothing like in his prime, he still shows mobility in the pocket and throwing on the run on bootlegs.

Former first-round pick Aaron Rodgers will be in his third season as Favre's heir apparent, and barring a collapse by the Packers in the first half of the season, figures to get little or any playing time, considering Favre's unprecedented durability. His starting streak is at 237 games and counting.

RATING: 7.5

RUNNING BACKS

Though Green wasn't the same player last year that he was in his prime, his loss in free agency nevertheless will hurt an offense that struggled to score as it was last season. Vernand Morency (4.6 yards a carry, 421 yards for the season) is the starter in name, but if the Packers' ground game is going to be any good, they probably will need a significant contribution from second-round draft pick Brandon Jackson of Nebraska. Fullback William Henderson was at the end of the line, so the Packers cut him in the off-season, and Brandon Miree probably will replace him in the starting lineup.

RATING: 6

RECEIVERS

With the return of Donald Driver (92 catches, 14.1-yard average, eight touchdowns) and promising Greg Jennings, the Packers are solid at their two starting spots. But after that they have major questions. Thompson used a high draft pick on a relative unknown, San Jose State's James Jones in the third round, but getting immediate help from rookie receivers is a shaky proposition. He also added a speed receiver in fifth-rounder David Clowney of Virginia Tech. They'll compete with an undistinguished group of returnees that includes seventh-year pro Robert Ferguson, who is coming off a foot injury; Ruvell Martin, who had 21 catches last season; and Carlyle Holiday (nine receptions in '06).

Koren Robinson probably will return in October from a year's substance-abuse suspension, but there's no way of knowing whether he'll be sharp enough to contribute after a year away from the game. At tight end, declining Bubba Franks (25 catches) returns as the starter, but David Martin left in free agency, leaving developmental prospects Donald Lee, Tory Humphrey, Zac Alcorn and seventh-round pick Clark Harris to add something to the passing game.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Packers last season endured the growing pains of the transition to a zone-blocking scheme and starting two rookie guards, Daryn Colledge and Jason Spitz. They expect to see the dividends this season with a more cohesive and well-schooled blocking unit for a run game that averaged only 3.9 yards a carry last year.

Veteran Chad Clifton has a balky knee that bothered him last season, but he remains a solid left tackle, and Mark Tauscher returns as his bookend who probably was the team's best offensive lineman last year. Thompson signed fourth-year pro Scott Wells to a contract extension last season as the long-term starting center.

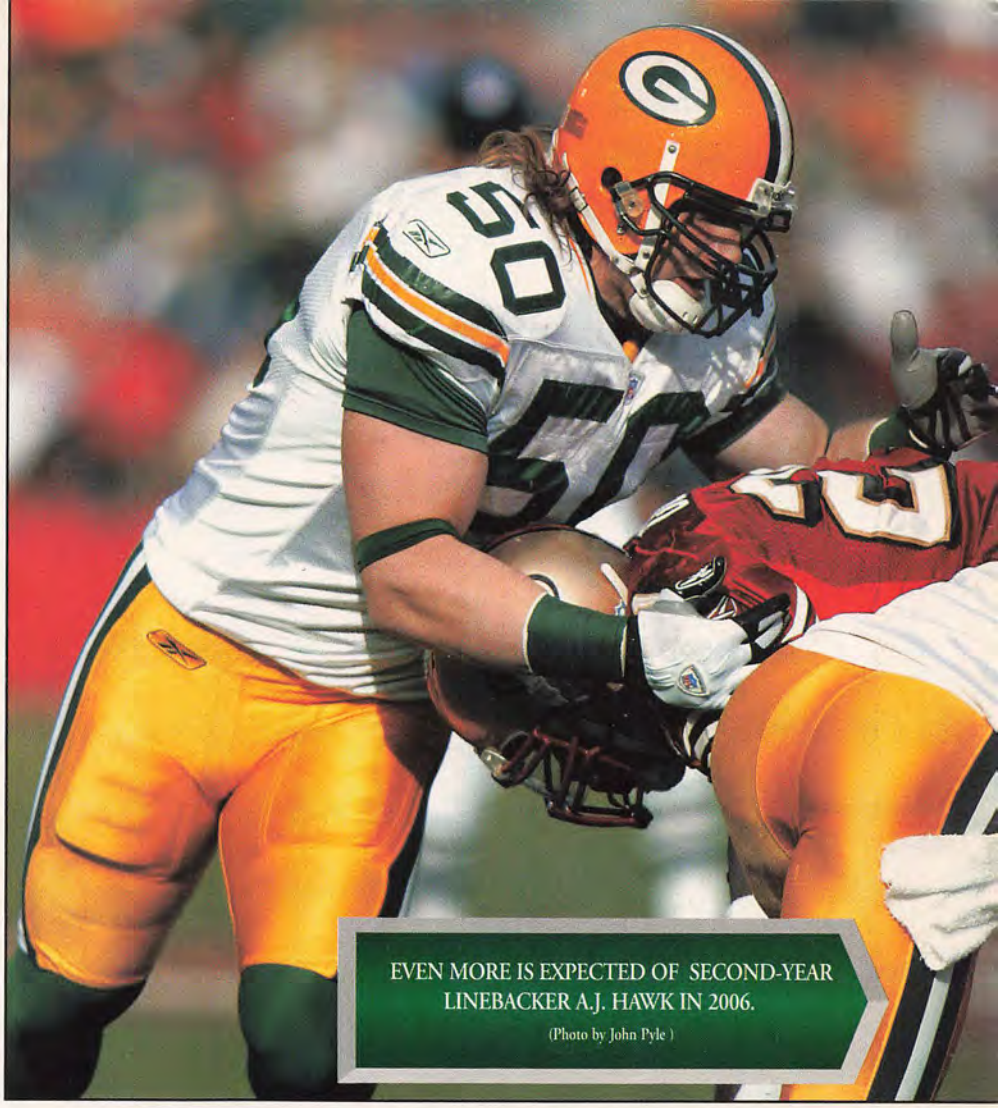
RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This decent group should be better in '07 with first-round pick Harrell. Another key will be the move of Jenkins from a full-time defensive tackle to the early-down right end — the Packers gave up only 42 points in their last four games after moving Jenkins to that role. That earned Jenkins a contract extension and leaves Gbaja-Biamila as a rusher on nickel and dime downs.

Aaron Kampman continues to blossom and had a huge season at left defensive end (15.5 sacks, 113 tackles), and at age 27 remains in his prime. Ryan Pickett and Corey Williams join Harrell in the defensive tackle rotation, and if Harrell is good enough to displace Williams as a starter as a rookie, it could make the inside of the Packers' line a strong group.

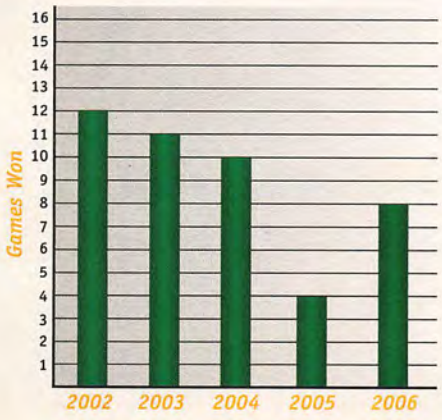
RATING: 7.5



EVEN MORE IS EXPECTED OF SECOND-YEAR LINEBACKER A.J. HAWK IN 2006.

(Photo by John Pyle)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004*

Packers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
49	Alcorn, Zac (TE)	6-4	255	2	Black Hills	6/0	FA 06	OFA GB 06	Second-year tight end has chance to move up depth charts to No. 2 this year.
19	Bodiford, Shaun	5-11	186	2	Portland State	6/0	W,DET 06	OFA DET 06	Quick and fast receiver/returner missed most of last year with shin injury.
11	Clowney, David	6-0	188	R	Virginia Tech	0/0	D5 07	D5 GB 07	Fifth-round pick with 4.40-second speed could be deep threat the team lacks.
80	**Driver, Donald**	**6-0**	**190**	**9**	**Alcorn State**	**16/16**	**D7 99**	**D7 GB 99**	**Career-high 92 catches in '06, third straight year of 84 or more catches.**
87	*Ferguson, Robert	6-1	219	7	Texas A&M	4/1	D2 01	D2 GB 01	Tough but injury-prone receiver could have tough time making roster.
83	Francies, Chris	6-1	193	2	Texas-El Paso	7/0	FA 06	OFA GB 06	A long shot to make team after two receivers were drafted this year.
88	**Franks, Bubba (TE)**	**6-6**	**265**	**8**	**Miami**	**16/14**	**D1 00**	**D1 GB 00**	**Drop-off in play last season a concern for tight end with average running ability.**
44	Harris, Clark (TE)	6-5	256	R	Rutgers	0/0	D7 07	D7 GB 07	Seventh-round pick was considered a solid prospect by several NFL teams.
18	Holiday, Carlyle	6-2	217	2	Notre Dame	8/2	W,ARZ 06	OFA ARIZ 05	Former Notre Dame quarterback showed strength and good hands late last season.
84	Humphrey, Tory (TE)	6-2	250	2	Central Michigan	7/0	FA 05	OFA GB 05	The fastest of the tight ends with real shot to win No. 2 job.
85	**Jennings, Greg**	**5-11**	**197**	**2**	**Western Michigan**	**14/11**	**D2 06**	**D2 GB 06**	**Promising former second-round pick tailed off in '06 after ankle injury.**
89	Jones, James	6-1	207	R	San Jose State	0/0	D3 07	D3 GB 07	Team thinks third-round choice has good shot at No. 3 receiving job.
86	Lee, Donald (TE)	6-4	248	5	Mississippi State	15/2	FA 05	D5 MIA 03	Has ability to get separation downfield, but questionable hands a concern.
82	Martin, Ruvell	6-4	210	2	Saginaw Valley State	13/3	FA 06	OFA SD 04	Former undrafted free agent looking to surprise again in '07.
81	*Robinson, Koren	6-1	205	6	North Carolina State	4/0	FA 06	D1 SEA 01	Eligible to be reinstated from suspended list in September, but will Packers want him back?
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
78	Barbre, Allen (T)	6-4	300	R	Missouri Southern	0/0	D4 07	D4 GB 07	Fourth-round pick a possible left tackle of future and backup at guard as well.
71	*Barry, Kevin (G)	6-4	332	6	Arizona	0/0	OFA 02	OFA GB 02	Needs to show he can play in zone scheme after knee surgery in '06.
67	Bourke, Josh (T)	6-7	314	2	Grand Valley State	0/0	OFA 06	OFA GB 06	Made roster in '06 as a developmental left tackle, entering as an undrafted rookie.
76	**Clifton, Chad (T)**	**6-5**	**320**	**8**	**Tennessee**	**15/15**	**D2 00**	**D2 GB 00**	**Mainstay at left tackle starting to show wear from severe pelvic injury in '02.**
73	**Colledge, Daryn (G/T)**	**6-4**	**305**	**2**	**Boise State**	**16/15**	**D2 06**	**D2 GB 06**	**Had promising rookie year at left guard after playing left tackle in college.**
62	Coston, Junius (G/T)	6-3	313	3	North Carolina A&T	1/0	D5 05	D5 GB 05	Blew starting shot at guard last year, needs to show more than potential.
75	Moll, Tony (T/G)	6-5	304	2	Nevada	16/10	D5 06	D5 GB 06	Backup who showed as rookie last year he can play guard and tackle at an NFL level.
64	Palmer, Tony (G/C)	6-2	311	2	Missouri	6/0	W,STL 06	D7 STL 06	Tough guy fits zone-blocking scheme and should be solid backup guard.
72	**Spitz, Jason (G/C)**	**6-4**	**300**	**2**	**Louisville**	**14/13**	**D3 06**	**D3 GB 06**	**Showed toughness and athleticism as starting right guard as rookie.**
65	**Tauscher, Mark (T)**	**6-3**	**315**	**8**	**Wisconsin**	**11/11**	**D7 00**	**D7 GB 00**	**Steady right tackle might crack Pro Bowl one of these years.**
70	Walter, Tyson (G/C)	6-4	300	6	Ohio State	7/0	FA 06	D6 DALL 02	Versatility as guard and tackle gives veteran chance to make roster as backup.
63	**Wells, Scott (C/G)**	**6-2**	**295**	**4**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**FA 04**	**D7 GB 04**	**Smart, scrappy center fits zone scheme and quarterbacks line.**
RUNNING BACKS									
30	Beach, Arliss	5-10	222	2	Kentucky	0/0	OFA 06	OFA GB 06	Missed rookie season with ankle injury; could win No. 3 job.
35	Hall, Korey (FB)	6-0	236	R	Boise State	0/0	D6 07	D6 GB 07	Draft pick was linebacker at Boise State, but will begin as fullback with Packers.
23	Herron, Noah	5-11	218	2	Northwestern	16/0	FA 05	D7 PITT 05	Will battle Beach for No. 3 job; also can play backup fullback.
32	Jackson, Brandon	5-10	212	R	Nebraska	0/0	D2 07	D2 GB 07	Packers need second-round pick to provide immediate impact at halfback.
40	**Miree, Brandon (FB)**	**6-0**	**236**	**3**	**Pittsburgh**	**10/3**	**FA 06**	**D7 DEN 04**	**Front-runner to start at fullback after elbow injury slowed '06 play.**
34	**Morency, Vernand**	**5-10**	**212**	**2**	**Oklahoma State**	**14/2**	**T,HOU 06**	**D3 HOUS 05**	**Likely starter, but probably lacks durability to be full-time player.**
28	Pope, P.J.	5-9	212	2	Bowling Green	1/0	FA 06	OFA CHI 06	Late acquisition in '06 is darkhorse to beat out Beach and Herron.
42	Wynn, DeShawn	5-10	232	R	Florida	0/0	D7 07	D7 GB 07	Seventh-round pick has size and speed, but lacks toughness.
QUARTERBACKS									
4	**Favre, Brett**	**6-2**	**222**	**17**	**Southern Mississippi**	**16/16**	**T,ATL 92**	**D2 ATL 91**	**Needs seven touchdown passes to surpass Dan Marino's NFL-record 420 for career.**
7	Martin, Ingle	6-2	220	2	Furman	1/0	D5 06	D5 GB 06	Hunting buddy of Favre is leading candidate for No. 3 job.
12	*Rodgers, Aaron	6-2	223	3	California	2/0	D1 05	D1 GB 05	Needs good exhibition season to show he's true heir apparent.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
90	Cole, Colin (T)	6-2	315	3	Iowa	15/3	FA 04	OFA MINN 03	Lane clogger will compete with Jolly for role as No. 4 tackle.
94	Gbaja-Biamila, Kabeer (E)	6-4	247	8	San Diego State	16/13	FA 00	D5 GB 00	Bumped from starting end late last year, pass-rush specialist now.
91	**Harrell, Justin (T)**	**6-4**	**310**	**R**	**Tennessee**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 GB 07**	**Defense needs big impact from rookie to make up for scoring problems.**
57	Hunter, Jason (E/OLB)	6-4	250	2	Appalachian State	14/0	OFA 06	OFA GB 06	Will battle for job as a backup pass-rush specialist and No. 4 end.
77	**Jenkins, Cullen (E)**	**6-2**	**295**	**4**	**Central Michigan**	**14/5**	**FA 04**	**OFA GB 03**	**New starter at right end also an inside rusher on passing downs.**
93	Jolly, Johnny (T)	6-3	312	2	Texas A&M	6/0	D6 06	D6 GB 06	Battling Cole for job as No. 4 tackle after blasé rookie year.
74	**Kampman, Aaron (E)**	**6-4**	**270**	**6**	**Iowa**	**16/16**	**D5 02**	**D5 GB 02**	**Proved worthy of big contract last season with Pro Bowl berth.**
96	*Montgomery, Mike (E)	6-5	265	3	Texas A&M	11/0	D6 05	D6 GB 05	Disappointing second season means job as backup end is on line.
79	**Pickett, Ryan (NT)**	**6-2**	**322**	**7**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**UFA,STL 06**	**D1 STL 01**	**Solid free-agent signing who is part of potentially strong tackle rotation.**
99	Williams, Corey (T)	6-4	313	4	Arkansas State	16/11	D6 04	D6 GB 04	Improving veteran should get jolt after drafting of Harrell in first round.
LINEBACKERS									
56	**Barnett, Nick (M)**	**6-2**	**232**	**5**	**Oregon State**	**15/15**	**D1 03**	**D1 GB 03**	**Solid middle linebacker who along with Hawk gives Packers strong duo on nickel downs.**
55	Bishop, Desmond	6-2	241	R	California	0/0	D6 07	D6 GB 07	Rookie lacks stopwatch speed, but team likes hard hitter who plays fast.
50	**Hawk, A.J. (O)**	**6-1**	**247**	**2**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 GB 06**	**Showed promise, but needs to become top-notch player for star-shy team.**
52	Hodge, Abdul (M)	6-0	229	2	Iowa	8/1	D3 06	D3 GB 06	Third-round pick in '06 needs big camp to push for playing time this year.
51	**Poppinga, Brady (O)**	**6-3**	**245**	**3**	**Brigham Young**	**16/12**	**D4 05**	**D4 GB 05**	**College end had growing pains, but improved as starting linebacker last year.**
59	White, Tracy (O)	6-0	234	5	Howard	14/0	FA 06	OFA SEA 03	Needs another strong camp on special teams to make roster as backup.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
20	Bigby, Atari (S)	5-11	211	2	Central Florida	5/0	FA 06	OFA MIA 05	Former undrafted rookie faces logjam for backup job at safety.
27	*Blackmon, Will (CB)	6-0	202	2	Boston College	4/0	D4 06	D4 GB 06	In running for nickel corner after missing rookie season with broken foot.
24	Bush, Jarrett (CB)	6-0	197	2	Utah State	16/0	W,CARO 06	OFA CARO 06	Picked up after final cuts in '06, in running for No. 3 corner job as well.
36	**Collins, Nick (S)**	**5-11**	**200**	**3**	**Bethune-Cookman**	**16/16**	**D2 05**	**D2 GB 05**	**Former second-round pick needs to blossom after so-so second year.**
29	Culver, Tyrone (S)	6-1	200	2	Fresno State	14/0	D6 06	D6 GB 06	OK fill-in last year will be in thick of battle for final two safety spots.
43	Dendy, Patrick (CB)	6-0	190	3	Rice	12/3	FA 05	OFA GB 05	Played OK in nickel role last year, but should be farther down depth chart.
31	**Harris, Al (CB)**	**6-1**	**188**	**10**	**Texas A&M-Kingsville**	**16/16**	**T,PHA 03**	**D6 TB 97**	**Continued covering top receiver despite addition of Woodson in '06.**
22	Manuel, Marquand (S)	6-0	209	6	Florida	16/16	UFA,SEA 06	D6 CIN 02	Has to play better than he did last season after being signed away from Seahawks.
26	Peprah, Charlie (S)	5-11	202	2	Alabama	8/0	W,NYG 06	D5 NYG 06	Waiver claim after final cuts in '06 has chance to make roster as backup safety.
37	Rouse, Aaron (S)	6-4	223	R	Virginia Tech	0/0	D3 07	D3 GB 07	Third-round pick expected to challenge Manuel, Underwood for starting safety job.
25	***Underwood, Marviel (S)**	**5-10**	**200**	**3**	**San Diego State**	**0/0**	**D4 05**	**D4 GB 05**	**Strong start in camp in '06 wrecked by knee injury, could start this year.**
41	Walker, Frank (CB)	5-10	196	5	Tuskegee	11/1	UFA,NYG 07	D6 NYG 03	Only free-agent signing of any note in off-season; front-runner for nickel corner.
21	**Woodson, Charles (CB)**	**6-1**	**200**	**10**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**UFA,OAK 06**	**D1 OAK 98**	**Was good free-agent signing after playing through shoulder injury in '06.**
SPECIALISTS									
2	Crosby, Mason (K)	6-1	212	R	Colorado	0/0	D6 07	D6 GB 07	Packers couldn't pass on sixth-round pick to battle for job with Rayner.
60	Davis, Rob (LS)	6-3	284	12	Shippensburg	16/0	FA 97	OFA NYJ 93	38-year-old warhorse remains one of the top long snappers in the league.
16	Rayner, Dave (K)	6-2	210	3	Michigan State	16/0	W,IND 06	D6 IND 05	Had solid season in '06 and competition in camp should bring out his best.
9	Ryan, Jon (P)	6-0	202	2	Regina (Canada)	16/0	FA 06	FA GB 06	Did solid job in first season after coming over from Canada.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; PB=Plan B; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Carlton Brewster (1, Ferris State), Calvin Russell (Tuskegee); OT Orrin Thompson (1, Duke); OGs Travis Leffew (1, Louisville), Pat Murray (Truman State), Adam Stenavich (1, Michigan); QB Jerry Babb (Louisiana-Lafayette); FB Ryan Powdrell (Southern Cal); DEs Larry Birdine (Oklahoma), DeVon Hicks (NW Mississippi CC); DTs Daniel Muir (Kent State), Devarick Scandrett (1, Middle Tennessee State); LBs Tim Goodwell (1, Memphis), Spencer Havner (1, UCLA), Rory Johnson (Mississippi), Marcus Randall (1, Louisiana State), Juwan Simpson (Alabama); CBs Antonio Malone (1, Toledo), Tramon Williams (1, Louisiana Tech); S Alvin Nnabuife (1, Southern Methodist); P David Lonie (1, California)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Most of the Packers' top playmakers — Brett Favre, Donald Driver, Charles Woodson, and Al Harris — are in their 30s, so this team desperately needs a couple of youngsters to make major strides and show Pro Bowl-type ability if they are to qualify for the playoffs.

*Tight end Bubba Franks had a disappointing season in 2006 and though he's a good blocker, he's only a short-area and red-zone threat in the passing game. The Packers need someone from the group of Donald Lee, Tory Humphrey, Zac Alcorn and rookie Clark Harris to become a downfield threat in the passing game.

*General manager Ted Thompson's draft-oriented approach to building the Packers requires patience, but it's unclear how patient Packers fans will be if the team doesn't continue to show progress in his third year running the show.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Brett Favre

This isn't what Brett Favre expected when he decided a month after last season to return at age 37 for his 16th year as the Packers' quarterback.

Favre, who turns 38 in October, saw improvement down the stretch last season that helped convince him to return in 2007 on the assumption the Packers would make a big move or two to help an offense that has aging playmakers.

"My offensive line looks good; the defense looks good; I'm excited about playing for a talented young football team," Favre said.

However, it looks like Favre again will shoulder much of the offensive burden even as his own playmaking skills have waned. The Packers' best chance for immediate help was lost when general manager Ted Thompson was unwilling to trade a fourth-round draft pick for Oakland receiver Randy Moss.

Instead, Thompson is counting on improvement from within. Favre responded well to new coach Mike McCarthy's harder coaching and reduced his interceptions from 29 in 2005 to 18 last season. Having a season in McCarthy's system should help, and Favre will have to hope for a big jump from three players from the 2006 draft class who started as rookies: receiver Greg Jennings and guards Daryn Colledge and Jason Spitz.

LINEBACKERS

This also should be a strength with second-year pro A.J. Hawk, who was the fifth pick overall in the '06 draft, looking like he could become a Pro Bowl-type player after a solid rookie season (155 tackles). He and middle linebacker Nick Barnett, who signed a lucrative six-year contract extension in the off-season, rarely came off the field last year as the Packers used a nickel defense extensively. Brady Poppinga, a third-year pro, returns as the starting strong-side linebacker and could be a solid starter if he continues progressing from last season.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

Thompson's signing of cornerback Charles Woodson (eight interceptions) in free agency looked shaky early in the season, but proved to a good move as his play improved over the course of the year. He and Al Harris form an aging, but sound starting cornerback duo. The weaknesses are at nickel back, a role third-year pro Patrick Dendy held last season by default after Ahmad Carroll was cut.

Second-year pro Will Blackmon, who missed all of his rookie season because of a broken foot, and free-agent signee Frank Walker from the New York Giants are the leading candidates to displace Dendy. At safety, free-agent addition Marquand Manuel was a disappointment last season, so the Packers are hoping that either third-round draft pick Aaron Rouse of Virginia Tech or third-year pro Marviel Underwood, who missed last season because of a torn ACL, beats him out.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Packers' two young kicking specialists, kicker Dave Rayner (26-for-35 on field-goal attempts) and punter Jon Ryan (44.5-yard gross, 35.7-yard net) had decent rookie seasons and showed strong legs but need to take a step forward. The Packers drafted Colorado's Mason Crosby in the sixth round to fight it out for the kicking job with Rayner.

The return game was abysmal last season and no players of note were added to upgrade that area, though the Packers think Shaun Bodiford showed potential as a punt returner before getting injured. Clowney, a fifth-round pick, might have as good a chance as anyone to be the primary kickoff returner. The ever-reliable Rob Davis returns as long-snapper.

RATING: 6

INTANGIBLES

This could be Favre's final season, which might elevate the play of the team during hard times and especially at Lambeau Field, where the sentiment should run high.

RATING: Plus 1

— Pete Dougherty

2006 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 10	CHICAGO	0-26
Sep. 17	NEW ORLEANS	27-34
Sep. 24	at Detroit	31-24
Oct. 2	at Philadelphia	9-31
Oct. 8	ST. LOUIS	20-23
Oct. 15	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 22	at Miami	34-24
Oct. 29	ARIZONA	31-14
Nov. 5	at Buffalo	10-24
Nov. 12	at Minnesota	23-17
Nov. 19	NEW ENGLAND	0-35
Nov. 27	at Seattle	24-34
Dec. 3	N.Y. JETS	10-38
Dec. 10	at San Francisco	30-19
Dec. 17	DETROIT	17-9
Dec. 21	MINNESOTA	9-7
Dec. 31	at Chicago	26- 7

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	at Pittsburgh (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 18	SEATTLE (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 23	JACKSONVILLE (Thu.)	7:00
Aug. 30	at Tennessee (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	PHILADELPHIA	12:00
Sep. 16	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Sep. 23	SAN DIEGO	12:00
Sep. 30	at Minnesota	12:00
Oct. 7	CHICAGO	7:15
Oct. 14	WASHINGTON	12:00
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	at Denver (Mon.)	6:30
Nov. 4	at Kansas City	12:00
Nov. 11	MINNESOTA	12:00
Nov. 18	CAROLINA	12:00
Nov. 22	at Detroit (Thu.)	12:30
Nov. 29	at Dallas (Thu.)	7:15
Dec. 9	OAKLAND	12:00
Dec. 16	at St. Louis	12:00
Dec. 23	at Chicago	12:00
Dec. 30	DETROIT	12:00

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

2006 RECORD: 6-10 | STADIUM: Hubert H. Humphrey, 64,121, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

NFC NORTH | www.vikings.com

AT A GLANCE

9520 Viking Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
(952) 828-6500

TRAINING CAMP:
Minnesota State University-Mankato

COACH:
Brad Childress, 2nd year with Vikings and as NFL head coach (6-10)

VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Rob Brzezinski

VICE PRESIDENT PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Rick Spielman

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Scott Studwell

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Paul Wiggin

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Darrell Bevell	Offensive coordinator	8	2
Kevin Rogers	Quarterbacks	2	2
Pat Morris	Offensive line	11	2
Jim Hueber	Assistant offensive line	2	2
George Stewart	Receivers	20	1
Eric Bieniemy	Running backs	2	2
Jimmie Johnson	Tight ends	2	2
Ryan Ficken	Offensive quality control	1	1
Chad O'Shea	Offensive assistant	4	2
Leslie Frazier	Defensive coordinator	8	1
Karl Dunbar	Defensive line	3	2
Fred Pagac	Linebackers	7	2
Joe Woods	Secondary	4	2
Brendan Daly	Defensive assistant	2	2
Jeff Imamura	Defensive quality control	2	2
Paul Ferraro	Special teams coord.	3	2
Brian Murphy	Special teams assistant	2	2
Tom Kanavy	Strength & Conditioning	13	2
Juney Barnett	Strength & Conditioning	2	2
Martin Streight	Strength & Conditioning	11	2

*Assistant head coach

Vikings Put Their Hopes in Young Quarterback

The honeymoon period ended quickly for Brad Childress.

One season after taking over as the Vikings head coach and overseeing a free-agent shopping spree that resulted in the addition of five starters, Childress finds himself on the hot seat.

That's what happens when an offensive-minded coach is hired to take over a 9-7 team and proceeds to go 6-10 while calling plays for an offense that establishes franchise lows for first downs (272) and touchdown passes (13) in a 16-game season.

The Vikings weren't a team loaded with playmakers, but it didn't help that Childress struggled to best utilize the abilities of the players he had. Case in point: tight end Jermaine Wiggins' reception total fell from 69 to 46, and quarterback Brad Johnson never seemed comfortable in trying to execute the game plan. The veteran was benched for the final two games as rookie Tarvaris Jackson took over.

Not surprisingly, some players began to grumble as the Vikings won only two of their final 10 games. The decision to cut popular receiver Marcus Robinson on Christmas Eve also didn't sit well with a team that proceeded to lose its regular-season finale to St. Louis by 20 points.

Perhaps realizing there is a bit more rebuilding going on here than first thought, the Vikings took a different and more low-key approach this off-season. The biggest free-agent signings were Tennessee receiver Bobby Wade, Giants tight end Visanthe Shiancoe and Indianapolis safety Mike Doss. Minnesota made no real attempt to acquire a quarterback, meaning Jackson will enter camp as the starter.

Expectations won't be high for this team in 2007, but the Vikings likely are going to need to show improvement if Childress is to have a long-term future in Minnesota.

COACHING

Childress has given indications that he might consider surrendering some of his play-calling duties, but until that happens, Darrell Bevell will be considered the offensive coordinator in title only.

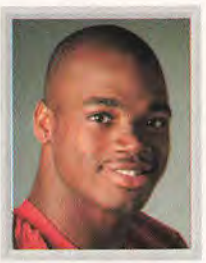
One of the few bright spots for the Vikings last season was the job done by energetic defensive coordinator Mike Tomlin. The defense, which finished first in the NFL against the run and tied for last against the pass, was considered to have overachieved by many.

This helped the 35-year-old Tomlin land the Steelers' head coaching job after only one season as a coordinator. Leslie Frazier is now guiding the defense. While he will keep much of the Tampa-2 system in place, it will be interesting to see how the players respond to the more low-key Frazier.

RATING: 6

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
RB Adrian Peterson



Considering the Vikings already have a workhorse running back in Chester Taylor, it surprised some when they selected Adrian Peterson. But Peterson, assuming he can stay healthy, could provide the type of play-making presence that Minnesota lacked last season.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Vinny Ciurciu, S Mike Doss, WR Cortez Hankton, QB Drew Henson, TE Visanthe Shiancoe, WR Bobby Wade

KEY LOSSES:
OT Mike Rosenthal (15/3) and C/G Jason Whittle (16/2)*
They spent most of last season as reserves, but their presence provided a safety net. Rosenthal could play tackle when needed; Whittle center or guard. Both are gone and so is the security-blanket they provided.

OTHER LOSSES
LS Rod Davis (9/0), FB Joey Goodspeed (0/0), LB Napoleon Harris (14/14), S Will Hunter (10/0), WR Bethel Johnson 11/2), QB Brad Johnson (15/14), DT Ross Kolodziej (12/0), CB Fred Smoot (14/11), WR Travis Taylor (16/16), TE Jermaine Wiggins (16/3)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 9 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

QUARTERBACKS

Jackson, a second-round pick in 2006 out of Division I-AA Alabama State, is going to get every chance to win this job. He has a strong arm and the ability to scramble. What's not clear is if he's ready to play at this level on a consistent basis. Jackson started the final two games of last season, both losses, and was clearly learning on the job.

Veteran Brooks Bollinger, acquired late in the preseason last year from the New York Jets, will serve as Jackson's backup. Drew Henson and seventh-round pick Tyler Thigpen round out the depth chart.

RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

Chester Taylor gained 1,216 rushing yards on 303 carries in his first season with the Vikings and finished with 345 touches, the third highest in team history. The heavy workload clearly took its toll and caused the Vikings to try to find some help for the veteran.

They did that, and then some, on draft day by taking Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson with the seventh overall pick. The move wasn't surprising considering that all four of the teams that reached the conference championship games last season had two No. 1-caliber rushers. Veteran fullback Tony Richardson will be counted on to open holes for the two backs.

RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

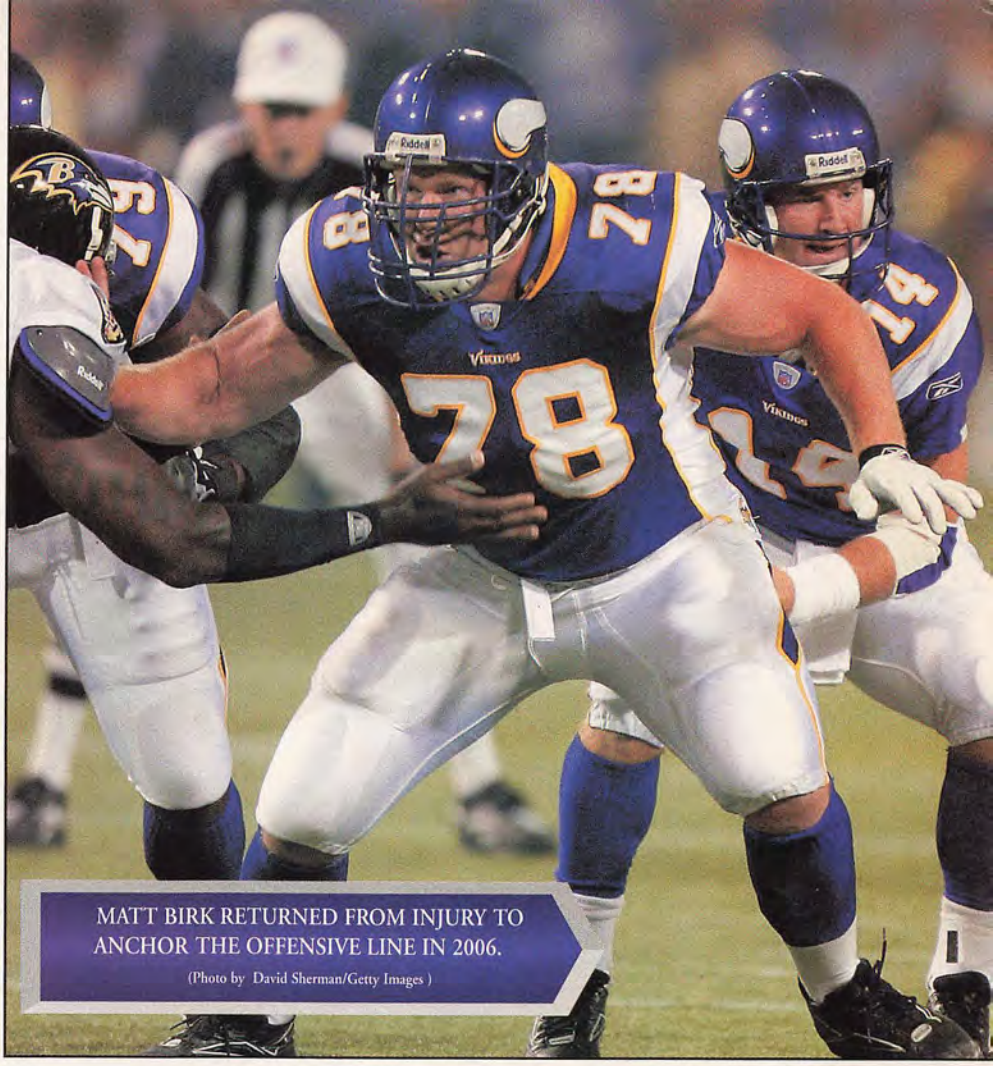
The Vikings will enter the season without a clear-cut No. 1 receiver and with plenty of questions about exactly to whom Jackson will be throwing.

Wade, who received a five-year, $15 million deal after catching 33 passes for 461 yards last season, primarily will play in the slot. And that's about all we know. Troy Williamson is coming off a miserable second NFL season in which he was plagued by dropped passes. The seventh overall pick in the 2005 draft spent time at the Nike headquarters this off-season in an attempt to improve his focus and hand-eye coordination.

The Vikings hope they addressed some of their needs in the draft by taking three receivers, including Sidney Rice (second round), Aundrae Allison (fifth round) and Chandler Williams (seventh round). Free agent Cortez Hankton also was added to the mix, but he had only five receptions with Jacksonville last season.

Shiancoe, the backup to Jeremy Shockey the past four seasons, received $7 million guaranteed in his five-year deal and is the primary tight end. Veteran Jim Kleinsasser returns in a blocking role.

RATING: 5.5



MATT BIRK RETURNED FROM INJURY TO ANCHOR THE OFFENSIVE LINE IN 2006.

(Photo by David Sherman/Getty Images)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This unit wasn't nearly as dominant as many expected last season after free agent Steve Hutchinson was added to play left guard. This was due in part to the fact left tackle Bryant McKinnie took a step backward after signing a big contract extension in September and because the play of the right side of the line was inconsistent.

A change to a zone-blocking scheme probably didn't help matters. Center Matt Birk and Hutchinson both went to the Pro Bowl and return playing alongside McKinnie, who must improve.

Artis Hicks figures to be the starting right guard and 2006 second-round pick Ryan Cook likely will open at right tackle. Both will be on a short leash. Marcus Johnson opened last season as the starter at right tackle and should push Cook.

With veterans Mike Rosenthal and Jason Whittle having departed, depth could be an issue.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

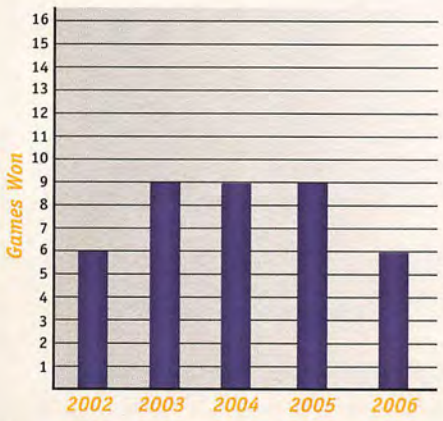
Tackles Kevin Williams and Pat Williams both went to the Pro Bowl last season and figuratively and literally were the biggest reasons the Vikings finished with the NFL's top run defense. Many teams ended up abandoning the ground game when they played Minnesota. Of course, this was in large part because of the success they had passing the ball.

The Vikings struggled to get pressure on quarterbacks and finished ranked 30th in sacks per pass play. It didn't help matters that right end Erasmus James suffered a season-ending knee injury in the second game of the season.

The Vikings are hoping James will be healthy and that Kenechi Udeze can return to left end. Udeze finished with no sacks last season despite replacing James in the key pass-rushing role. Darrion Scott also should compete for a starting job and second-year player Ray Edwards could contribute in a rushing role.

RATING: 7.5

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2004*

Vikings Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
4	Allison, Aundrae	6-0	198	R	East Carolina	0/0	D5 07	D5 MINN 07	Expected to be a first-day pick, but slid into the fifth round.
11	Carter, Jason	6-0	205	2	Texas A&M	1/0	FA 06	OFA MINN 06	Spent much of last season on the practice squad after strong training camp.
83	Dugan, Jeff (TE)	6-4	258	4	Maryland	7/7	D7 04	D7 MINN 04	Versatile player also spent time at fullback in 2006.
16	**Hankton, Cortez**	**6-0**	**200**	**5**	**Texas Southern**	**12/1**	**UFA,JAX 07**	**OFA JAX 03**	**Five receptions for Jags in '06; stands to get far more opportunities in '07.**
85	Hymes, Randy	6-3	211	5	Grambling	0/0	FA 07	OFA BLT 02	Caught career-high 26 passes for Ravens in 2004.
40	Kleinsasser, Jim (TE)	6-3	272	9	North Dakota	16/12	D2 99	D2 MINN 99	Won't be used in passing offense, but very good blocker.
17	Mann, Maurice	6-1	190	2	Nevada	1/0	FA 07	D5 CIN 04	Spent time on active roster in '06, but did not catch a pass.
12	McMullen, Billy	6-4	215	5	Virginia	16/0	T,PHA 06	D3 PHA 03	Veteran knows this offense and also knows his role.
15	Nance, Martin	6-3	212	1	Miami (Ohio)	1/1	FA 06	OFA BUFF 06	Caught attention of coaching staff last season and got late opportunity.
45	Owens, Richard (TE)	6-4	273	4	Louisville	16/2	OFA 04	OFA MINN 04	Special teams ability and hard work keep him on roster.
18	Rice, Sidney	6-4	200	R	South Carolina	0/0	D2 07	D2 MINN 07	Talented second-round pick could quickly ascend depth chart.
81	**Shiancoe, Visanthe (TE)**	**6-4**	**250**	**5**	**Morgan State**	**16/4**	**UFA,NYG 07**	**D3 NYG 03**	**Figures to be No. 1 tight end after being signed away from Giants.**
84	Spach, Stephen (TE)	6-4	250	2	Fresno State	0/0	FA 07	OFA PHA 05	Childress knows him from days together in Philadelphia.
19	**Wade, Bobby**	**5-10**	**186**	**5**	**Arizona**	**16/2**	**UFA,TENN 07**	**D5 CHI 03**	**Free-agent addition from Tennessee will play in slot.**
89	Williams, Chandler	5-11	184	R	Florida International	0/0	D7 07	D7 MINN 07	Seventh-round pick is likely to end up on practice squad.
82	Williamson, Troy	6-1	203	3	South Carolina	14/11	D1 05	D1 MINN 05	Blazing speed doesn't mean much if can't hang onto ball.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
78	**Birk, Matt (C)**	**6-4**	**309**	**10**	**Harvard**	**16/16**	**D6 98**	**D6 MINN 98**	**Returned after missing '05 season because of injury; made Pro Bowl.**
62	**Cook, Ryan (T)**	**6-6**	**328**	**2**	**New Mexico**	**6/3**	**D2 06**	**D2 MINN 06**	**Raw rookie finished last season as starting right tackle.**
64	Herrera, Anthony (G)	6-2	315	4	Tennessee	2/0	FA 04	OFA MINN 04	Starter at times in 2005, was inactive for most of '06 campaign.
79	**Hicks, Artis (G)**	**6-4**	**335**	**6**	**Memphis**	**14/14**	**T,PHA 06**	**OFA PHA 02**	**Needs to show improvement in second season playing right guard full time.**
76	**Hutchinson, Steve (G)**	**6-5**	**313**	**7**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**TFA,SEA 06**	**D1 SEA 01**	**Pro Bowl left guard hasn't disappointed after signing big free-agent deal.**
72	Johnson, Marcus (T)	6-6	321	3	Mississippi	10/10	D2 05	D2 MINN 05	Was starting right tackle last season, but lost job after injury.
66	Katnik, Norm (C)	6-4	280	2	Southern Cal	3/2	FA 07	OFA SF 04	Member of practice squad for part of 2006, is only backup center.
74	**McKinnie, Bryant (T)**	**6-8**	**335**	**6**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 MINN 02**	**Struggled in zone-blocking scheme last season after very strong 2005.**
RUNNING BACKS									
35	Fason, Ciatrick	6-0	207	3	Florida	5/0	D4 05	D4 MINN 05	Will have to fight to keep his spot on roster now that Peterson has been added.
34	Mathis, Wendell	5-11	213	1	Fresno State	0/0	FA 06	OFA MINN 06	Activated from practice squad late last season in part because Vikings did not want him to leave.
30	Moore, Mewelde	5-11	209	4	Tulane	16/0	D4 04	D4 MINN 04	Leading rusher only two years ago, he might be only a return man in 2007.
28	Peterson, Adrian	6-1	217	R	Oklahoma	0/0	D1 07	D1 MINN 07	First-round pick figures to share time with Chester Taylor.
22	Pinner, Artose	5-10	232	4	Kentucky	12/1	W,DET 06	D4 DET 03	Veteran reserve might have trouble getting on the field with Taylor and Peterson around.
49	***Richardson, Tony (FB)**	**6-1**	**238**	**13**	**Auburn**	**9/7**	**UFA,KC 06**	**OFA DALL 94**	**Injury ended veteran's 2006 season, but he remains top-notch blocker.**
38	Tahi, Naufahu (FB)	6-0	254	2	Brigham Young	0/0	FA 06	OFA CIN 06	Signed last season because team likes his potential to eventually replace Richardson.
29	**Taylor, Chester**	**5-11**	**213**	**6**	**Toledo**	**15/15**	**UFA,BLT 06**	**D6 BLT 02**	**Heavy workload should be reduced with Peterson around to help.**
QUARTERBACKS									
9	Bollinger, Brooks	6-1	205	5	Wisconsin	2/0	T,NYJ 06	D6 NYJ 03	Student of the game is type of backup Childress wants.
2	Henson, Drew	6-4	235	3	Michigan	0/0	FA 07	D6 HOUS 03	Spent time last season on team' practice squad, but will be hard-pressed to stick.
7	**Jackson, Tarvaris**	**6-2**	**232**	**2**	**Alabama State**	**4/2**	**D2 06**	**D2 MINN 06**	**If Vikings have their way, he will be starter for years to come.**
4	Thigpen, Tyler	6-1	226	R	Coastal Carolina	0/0	D7 07	D7 MINN 07	Seventh-round pick could end up as No. 3 quarterback.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
91	Edwards, Ray (E)	6-5	268	R	Purdue	15/2	D4 06	D4 MINN 06	Second-year player could be in the mix as pass-rush specialist.
69	Green, Howard (NT)	6-2	320	2	Louisiana State	0/0	FA 07	D6 HOUS 02	Started 12 games for Saints in '04, but out of NFL last two seasons in part because of weight issues.
99	*James, Erasmus (E)	6-4	266	2	Wisconsin	2/2	D1 05	D1 MINN 05	Being counted on to return from knee injury; team needs his pass-rush ability.
97	*Johnson, Spencer (T)	6-3	286	3	Auburn	14/0	OFA 04	OFA MINN 04	Reserve could see increased playing time at tackle.
92	Mitchell, Jayme (E)	6-6	285	2	Mississippi	13/0	FA 06	OFA MINN 06	Will try to get into the mix as option in pass rush.
96	Robison, Brian (E)	6-3	259	R	Texas	0/0	D4 07	D4 MINN 07	Vikings traded up in fourth round to get him in draft, but likely will spend '07 learning.
98	**Scott, Darrion (E)**	**6-3**	**289**	**3**	**Ohio State**	**16/13**	**D3 04**	**D3 MINN 04**	**Has moved into starting role past two seasons; can play end or tackle spots.**
90	Smith, Khreem (E)	6-4	270	1	Oklahoma State	1/0	FA 06	FA MINN 06	Spent last season learning; could contribute in reserve role.
95	**Udeze, Kenechi (E)**	**6-3**	**281**	**3**	**Southern Cal**	**16/15**	**D1 04**	**D1 MINN 04**	**Failed to register a sack last season, must show improvement.**
93	**Williams, Kevin (T)**	**6-5**	**311**	**4**	**Oklahoma State**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 MINN 03**	**Rebounded with a Pro Bowl season after tough 2005.**
94	**Williams, Pat (T)**	**6-3**	**317**	**10**	**Texas A&M**	**16/16**	**UFA,BUFF 05**	**OFA BUFF 97**	**Along with Kevin Williams, he make life miserable for those who try to run up the middle.**
LINEBACKERS									
7	Alexander, Rufus (O)	6-1	232	R	Oklahoma	0/0	D6 07	D6 MINN 07	Sixth-round pick eventually could be good fit on weak side; fits this defense.
50	Ciurciu, Vinny (M)	6-0	235	5	Boston College	16/0	UFA,CAR 07	OFA CAR0 03	Free-agent addition made name for himself on special teams in Carolina.
59	Farwell, Heath (O)	6-0	235	3	San Diego State	16/0	FA 05	OFA MINN 05	Another valuable member of special teams who is always going 100 miles per hour.
55	*Glenn, Jason (O)	6-0	231	7	Texas A&M	9/0	FA 06	D6 DET 01	Knee injury ended his 2006; will be looking to make team in special-teams role.
52	***Greenway, Chad (O)**	**6-2**	**242**	**2**	**Iowa**	**0/0**	**D1 06**	**D1 MINN 06**	**Missed 2006 because of knee injury; should start on the weak side.**
56	**Henderson, E.J. (M)**	**6-1**	**245**	**5**	**Maryland**	**16/16**	**D2 03**	**D2 MINN 03**	**Making the move back to the middle after two years on weak side.**
51	**Leber, Ben (O)**	**6-3**	**244**	**6**	**Kansas State**	**15/11**	**UFA,SD 06**	**D3 SD 02**	**Free-agent signee fit in very well last season in his first year with the Vikings.**
54	Thomas, Dontarrious (M)	6-2	241	4	Auburn	16/3	D2 04	D2 MINN 04	Spent last season as the top backup at all three linebacker positions.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
20	Blue, Greg (S)	6-2	216	2	Georgia	16/2	D5 06	D5 MINN 06	Big hitter, looked comfortable whenever he got a chance during rookie campaign.
32	Body, Patrick (CB)	6-2	198	2	Toledo	0/0	FA 07	OFA CIN 05	Spent much of last season on the practice squad.
21	*Doss, Mike (S)	5-10	207	5	Ohio State	6/4	UFA,IND 07	D2 IND 03	Coming off knee injury, signed as free agent from Colts.
36	*Edwards, Dovonte (CB)	6-0	182	3	North Carolina State	0/0	OFA 05	OFA MINN 05	Broken arm ended his 2006 in preseason; has potential.
41	Gordon, Charles (CB)	5-11	180	2	Kansas	8/1	FA 06	OFA MINN 06	Hard work helped get him a chance on field late last season.
23	***Griffin, Cedric (CB)**	**6-0**	**203**	**2**	**Texas**	**14/7**	**D2 06**	**D2 MINN 06**	**Went from playing in nickel to starting as a rookie; will remain in that role.**
37	Hawkins, Mike (CB)	6-1	187	3	Oklahoma	7/0	W,CLV 06	D5 GB 05	Obtained late last season, will get a look in camp.
44	Maddox, Andre (S)	6-1	200	2	North Carolina State	0/0	FA 07	D5 NYJ 05	Spent past two seasons with the Jets.
31	McCauley, Marcus (CB)	6-1	203	R	Fresno State	0/0	D3 07	D3 MINN 07	Coming off tough final season at Fresno State, still was taken in third round.
42	**Sharper, Darren (S)**	**6-2**	**210**	**11**	**William & Mary**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D2 GB 97**	**Veteran saw interception total drop from nine in 2005 to four last season.**
24	**Smith, Dwight (S)**	**5-10**	**201**	**7**	**Akron**	**15/14**	**FA 06**	**D3 TB 01**	**Tied Sharper and Winfield for team lead with four picks last season.**
27	Whitaker, Ronyell (CB)	5-9	196	2	Virginia Tech	16/2	FA 06	OFA TB 03	Opened 2006 as the primary nickel back, but lost the job; might not stick.
25	*Williams, Tank (S)	6-2	223	5	Stanford	0/0	UFA,TENN 06	D2 TENN 02	Free-agent addition had season ended by broken kneecap in training camp.
26	**Winfield, Antoine (CB)**	**5-9**	**180**	**9**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**UFA,BUFF 04**	**D1 BUFF 99**	**Steady veteran broke up team-leading 20 passes last season.**
39	Wishom, Jerron (CB)	6-0	197	2	Louisiana Tech	0/0	FA 07	OFA HOUS 05	Spent time with Packers and 49ers before signing with Vikings.
SPECIALISTS									
5	Kluwe, Chris (P)	6-4	215	2	UCLA	15/0	W,SEA 05	OFA SEA 05	One of Vikings' best finds in 2005; has a cannon for a leg but coming off ACL surgery.
46	Loeffler, Cullen (LS)	6-5	241	3	Texas	16/0	OFA 04	OFA MINN 04	Ability to long snap has kept him on roster the past two seasons.
8	Longwell, Ryan (K)	6-0	200	10	California	16/0	UFA,GB 06	OFA SF 97	Veteran was among big-name free-agent kickers to change addresses this offseason.
6	Torp, John (P)	6-2	212	R	Colorado	0/0	OFA 06	OFA MINN 06	Rookie free agent from Colorado surprisingly slid through the draft.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Todd Lowber (Ramapo), Justin Surrency (1, Northern Iowa); TE Braden Jones (Southern Illinois); OTs Josh Day (Colorado State), Chase Johnson (Wyoming); OGs Brian Daniels (Colorado), Jimmy Martin (1, Virginia Tech); Cs Kyle Cook (Michigan State), Dan Mozes (West Virginia); RB Arkee Whitlock (Southern Illinois); DTs Joe Anoai (Georgia Tech), Conrad Bolston (Maryland), Joe Bradley (Louisiana-Lafayette), Alex Guerrero (1, Boise State); LBs George Hall (Purdue), David Herron (Michigan State); S Jeremy Burnett (South Florida)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*After only two seasons it's probably premature to call Troy Williamson a bust in the NFL, but the receiver is going to need to show substantial improvement or risk being out of the NFL by the age of 25.

*Two years ago, E.J. Henderson was moved from middle linebacker to the weak side in part because then-coach Mike Tice realized the responsibilities that went along with the former job were too much for Henderson to handle. Now with Napoleon Harris gone, Henderson is being moved back to the middle — a position he wants to play.

*Chester Taylor left Baltimore to sign as a free agent with the Vikings in March 2006 because he wanted to be a featured back. It might take some adjusting now that he will certainly have to share carries with rookie Adrian Peterson from Oklahoma.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Tarvaris Jackson

A year ago, the Vikings were doing everything in their power to make sure there was no pressure on rookie quarterback Tarvaris Jackson. The franchise's hope was the second-round pick from Division I-AA Alabama State could spend at least one season learning from the sideline.

That didn't happen as Jackson ended up taking over the Vikings' struggling offense late in the season. Minnesota lost both of Jackson's starts, but coach Brad Childress must have been satisfied by what he saw because Jackson looks like a lock to open 2007 as the team's starter.

It's a lot to ask of a 23-year old who had only 81 passing attempts last season, but it's clear the Vikings see Jackson as their quarterback of the present and future. In fact, Childress made it clear from the day the 2006 season ended that he was not interested in signing a veteran to replace the released Brad Johnson.

Jackson, who has a cannon for an arm, should be helped this season by the fact he is fully recovered from a knee injury that slowed him throughout last season. Childress, who prides himself on being able to mold quarterbacks, likes the fact that Jackson is a quick study and willing listener.

LINEBACKERS

There will be some shuffling here.

E.J. Henderson moves from the weak side to the middle to replace Napoleon Harris, who signed as a free agent with Kansas City. Henderson will be flanked by Chad Greenway on the weak side and Ben Leber on the strong side.

Greenway was the Vikings' first-round pick in 2006, but suffered a left knee injury in the first game of the preseason and sat out the entire year. Dontarrious Thomas, free-agent signee Vinny Ciurciu and sixth-round pick Rufus Alexander figure to be the primary backups.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

Veteran Antoine Winfield and second-year player Cedric Griffin will enter the season as the starting cornerbacks. Fred Smoot lost his job to Griffin last season and returned to the Washington Redskins following his release.

The safety position isn't as clear-cut. The Vikings have veterans Darren Sharper, Dwight Smith, Tank Williams and Doss on the roster. Considering Sharper and Smith finished last year as the starters and Williams and Doss are coming off knee injuries, the latter two will have to impress to move up on the depth chart.

Dovonte Edwards, sidelined by a broken arm in 2006, will compete with Charles Gordon, Ronyell Whitaker and third-round pick Marcus McCauley for the nickel job. There also is a chance Smith could be the nickel back.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Ryan Longwell made 21 of 25 field goal attempts in his first season with the Vikings. The Vikings would like to see Longwell improve his distance on kickoffs. It's uncertain who will be holding for Longwell on field goal attempts.

Chris Kluwe served in that role last year, but he will be competing with rookie free agent Alex Reyes of Texas Tech for the punting job. Kluwe has a big leg, but he struggled at times with directional punting. Cullen Loeffler returns as the long snapper.

Running back Mewelde Moore figures to return in the punt return role after holding that job last season. It's uncertain who will return kicks now that Bethel Johnson has signed with Philadelphia. Wade could be in line for the job.

RATING: 6.5

INTANGIBLES

Childress and the front office still maintain there is a plan in place, but after last season many are taking a wait and see attitude. Part of the Vikings' plan will need to be adjustments by Childress in how he handles his players on and off the field.

RATING: Minus 1

— Judd Zulgad

2006 RESULTS

Record: 6-10

Sep. 11	at Washington	19-16
Sep. 17	CAROLINA (OT)	16-13
Sep. 24	CHICAGO	16-19
Oct. 1	at Buffalo	12-17
Oct. 8	DETROIT	26-17
Oct. 15	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 22	at Seattle	31-13
Oct. 30	NEW ENGLAND	7-31
Nov. 5	at San Francisco	3- 9
Nov. 12	GREEN BAY	17-23
Nov. 19	at Miami	20-24
Nov. 26	ARIZONA	31-26
Dec. 3	at Chicago	13-23
Dec. 10	at Detroit	30-20
Dec. 17	N.Y. JETS	13-26
Dec. 21	at Green Bay	7- 9
Dec. 31	ST. LOUIS	21-41

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 10	ST. LOUIS (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 17	at N.Y. Jets (Fri.)	8:00
Aug. 25	at Seattle (Sat.)	6:00
Aug. 30	DALLAS (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	ATLANTA	12:00
Sep. 16	at Detroit	4:05
Sep. 23	at Kansas City	12:00
Sep. 30	GREEN BAY	12:00
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	at Chicago	12:00
Oct. 21	at Dallas	12:00
Oct. 28	PHILADELPHIA	12:00
Nov. 4	SAN DIEGO	12:00
Nov. 11	at Green Bay	12:00
Nov. 18	OAKLAND	12:00
Nov. 25	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Dec. 2	DETROIT	12:00
Dec. 9	at San Francisco (Mon.)	1:05
Dec. 17	CHICAGO	7:30
Dec. 23	WASHINGTON	1:00
Dec. 30	at Denver	2:15

NFC SOUTH

DIVISION APPEARS UP FOR GRABS AGAIN

In the last five seasons, all four NFC South teams have won the division and all four have finished last. Tampa Bay has bounced from last to first to last in the last three years. New Orleans is the latest to climb from last to first in one season.

The Saints became one of the most compelling stories in NFL history, rising above the floodwaters of their city and the frustrations of their franchise to not only win the division but also become the No. 1 offense in the league. Sean Payton was an easy choice as Coach of the Year.

That kind of history will be impossible to repeat, so the Saints can only hope the division doesn't return to its topsy-turvy ways.

Surprisingly, the Carolina Panthers are suffering through the longest division title drought. Although they have been consensus NFC favorites recently, they haven't won the division since 2003.

Atlanta Falcons coach Bobby Petrino is the only newcomer. Thanks to Payton, he gets no honeymoon.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Quarterback Michael Vick has promised to get serious this time. Starting his seventh season with his third coach, Vick and his fans can only hope it's not too late for him to notice that starring in the NFL takes more than talent.

The Falcons plan to put bigger offensive linemen in front of him and Petrino is retooling his defense starting with top draft choice Jamaal Anderson at end. The Falcons are already the top rushing team, thanks to Vick's scrambles. He still needs more receivers than favorite target Alge Crumpler. Ex-Saint Joe Horn might be too old at 35.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Coach John Fox's team has fallen short of expectations since losing the Super Bowl after the 2003 season. They got to the conference final in 2005 and haven't taken the next step.

Stronger on defense than offense, the Panthers haven't become a dominant defense. They forced only 22 turnovers last year, way behind Chicago's 44 and Baltimore's 40.

Too much depends on two superstars, receiver Steve Smith on offense and defensive end Julius Peppers on defense. Somebody else needs to step up.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

They're still the favorites for one reason: they have the best quarterback. Drew Brees arrived from the AFC last season and quickly discovered the NFC can be had. There is a shortage of great quarterbacks in the NFC and Brees climbed right to the top.

The Saints got to their first conference title game before losing to Chicago. They are determined not to fall back, but it won't be the Big Easy.

Taking a page from the Indianapolis Colts, Payton decided to strengthen the team's strength, drafting speed receiver Robert Meachem after adding free-agent tight end Eric Johnson and receiver David Patten.

Fortunately for the Saints, their defense ranked 11th last season, but must improve against the run. Adding Cincinnati linebacker Brian Simmons should help.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Determined to escape the basement, the Bucs made more intriguing off-season moves than any other division team, adding quarterbacks Jeff Garcia and Jake Plummer, defensive lineman Kevin Carter, offensive left tackle Luke Petitgout, guard Matt Lehr, linebacker Cato June and tight end Jerramy Stevens. All started last season and some starred. June was the leading tackler on the world champion Colts.

Coach Jon Gruden also added the top pass rusher in the draft, Gaines Adams, to a defense that is slipping. If Gruden can convince Plummer to un-retire and settle on a quarterback among Garcia, Plummer or Chris Simms, the Bucs could be back on top.

? 5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Will the Saints slide back to reality?

Yes. It's common for teams that make an unexpectedly big jump like the Saints did from 3-13 to 10-6 to suffer a let-down. It will be coach Sean Payton's biggest challenge to prevent it.

2. Who plays quarterback in Tampa Bay?

Chris Simms. Jon Gruden might have too many toys on his hands for the Bucs to achieve any stability at the most important position. If he starts yanking players in and out, they're doomed.

3. Can Jake Delhomme take the next step in Carolina?

Unlikely. An average quarterback whose 17 touchdown passes ranked 11th in the NFC, Delhomme's production has slipped three years in a row. David Carr is now in the wings.

4. Will Bobby Petrino get through to Michael Vick?

Doubtful. If he doesn't, this could mark the beginning of the end for Vick, who is running out of excuses as fast as he runs around the field like a quarterback who needs to prepare harder.

5. Which pass-rushing rookie will be better, Gaines Adams or Jamaal Anderson?

Adams. Selected five picks apart, Adams is a more potent edge rusher. The Falcons think Anderson has more upside.

— Don Pierson

FINALLY!!

THE NATION'S MOST INFORMATIVE FOOTBALL COMP PHONE!!

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FOOTBALL AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON...

Presented by Northcoast Sports

AND IT'S FREE!!!

1 **FOOTBALL SCORES!**
Available All Day & Night on Saturday

3 **NORTHCOAST SPORTSLINE PLAYS OF THE WEEK!**
Four plays of the week, every week... ABSOLUTELY FREE!

5 **LINE UPDATES & INJURY REPORTS!**
Updated daily from major Las Vegas casinos & overseas sportsbooks. Complete injury reports & weather updates.

7 **THE FAMOUS TRENDS & NOTES!**
Selected Angles, System of the Week, MAJOR MOVES & more!

9 **GUEST HANDICAPPERS!**
Get free plays from some of the nation's top handicappers! A new selection each & every day!

CALL
1-347-677-1700
Northcoast Sports 24 hr Comp Line

3 ISSUES OF THE POWER SWEEP NEWSLETTER ($24 VALUE)
ABSOLUTELY FREE!!
NEVER ANY SALES PRESSURE!
NO PHONE NUMBER TAKEN!
NO SALESPERSON WILL CALL YOU!
CALL 1-800-654-3448
Northcoast Sports
AND MENTION THIS AD FROM LINDY'S ANNUAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

or go online & listen at www.ncsports.com

Call 1-347-677-1700

Limited number of ports available for the following cities:

CLEVELAND	216-228-2777
LAS VEGAS	702-736-9300
CHICAGO	708-456-4200
DALLAS	972-988-6898
ATLANTA	770-736-7050
NEBRASKA	402-891-0123
HOUSTON	281-940-1500

Check www.ncsports.com for an updated city listing.

ATLANTA FALCONS

2006 RECORD: 7-9 | STADIUM: Georgia Dome, 71,228, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

NFC SOUTH | www.atlantafalcons.com

AT A GLANCE

4400 Falcon Parkway
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
(770) 965-3115

TRAINING CAMP:
Atlanta Falcons Training Facility

COACH:
Bobby Petrino, 1st year with Falcons and as NFL head coach

PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER:
Rich McKay

SENIOR PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:
Billy Devaney

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Les Snead

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Phil Emery

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Hue Jackson	Offensive coordinator	7	1
Mike Summers	Offensive line	1	1
Bill Musgrave	Quarterbacks	9	2
Ollie Wilson	Running backs	17	6
Paul Petrino	Receivers	1	1
Keith Rowen	Tight ends	24	1
Derrick Nix	Offensive quality control	1	1
Andy Sugarman	Offensive assistant	9	1
Mike Zimmer	Defensive coordinator	14	1
Kevin Wolthausen	Defensive line	1	1
Brian VanGorder	Linebackers	2	1
Emmitt Thomas	Sr. defensive assistant/ secondary	27	6
Joe Whitt Jr.	Asstistant Secondary	1	1
Joe Gannon	Defensive quality control	1	1
Jerry Rosburg	Special teams	7	1
Tom McMahon	Special teams assistant	1	1
Evan Marcus	Strength & Conditioning	4	1
Dave Puloka	Strength & Conditioning	1	1
Billy Johnson	Strength & Conditioning	2	2

Petrino Tries to Solve Falcons' Inconsistency

Falcons' owner Arthur Blank has been described as passionate, meddling and image-conscious, among other things. More than anything, though, the Home Depot co-founder is competitive — hyper-competitive.

So when he witnessed a team that, in 2004, was a victory away from making the Super Bowl, regress with consecutive, non-playoff seasons in which a disappointing eight victories in 2005 dipped to seven wins in 2006, he fired coach Jim Mora and hired Louisville's Bobby Petrino.

It was a radical switch — a defensive coach to an offensive one; a lifelong pro coach to a mostly collegiate coach — but this was a team in need of a painful prod. The comforts Blank lavished on his players and coaches may have stemmed the sense of urgency that's needed in the NFL.

"We wanted a creative mind. We wanted a tough, disciplined approach," Blank said upon hiring Petrino.

To say the transition for Petrino has been smooth would be misleading.

Quarterback Michael Vick met with no-nonsense NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell the morning of the league's annual draft to discuss a series of off-field events that have kept Vick in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. That same weekend, it was disclosed that starting outside linebacker Demorrio Williams had surgery to repair torn pectoral muscles suffered while lifting weights.

In addition, pass-rushing defensive tackle Rod Coleman had an accident on a watercraft vehicle on the second day of the draft, rupturing his right quadriceps and forcing him to have surgery. Coleman and Williams could be out for the beginning stages of the regular season, depleting a defense that could be forced to start three rookies.

When he took the job, Petrino knew he had a lot of work to do, but the hill he now has to climb is pretty steep. A solid and deep draft (11 picks) could give him a much-needed boost.

COACHING

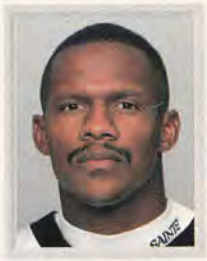
Petrino has been on the radar of several NFL teams over the past few years, with his innovative style of offensive play and success at the University of Louisville enough to dissuade doubts about his ability to succeed on the pro level.

Unlike many coaches when there is a change, Petrino hasn't come in talking about changing the culture or cleansing the past, ramblings that often rankle core veterans and drive a wedge between holdover personnel and newcomers who think they know more than anyone who's ever coached the game. Instead, he's stayed low key, lived in the film room with the staff, and come up with plans that will work with the players he wants to stick around and those he's bringing in.

Petrino's first hire was former Bengals wide receivers coach Hue Jackson, who was named offensive coordinator. Like Petrino, Jackson is a too-the-

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR Joe Horn
Though he may be near the end of his career, the sure-handed veteran gives Michael Vick a second option behind Alge Crumpler.



OTHER ADDITIONS:
PK Billy Cundiff, G Toniu Fonoti, QB Joey Harrington, T Leander Jordan, FB Ovie Mughelli, QB Chris Redman, CB Lewis Sanders, LB Marcus Wilkins.

KEY LOSS:
DE Patrick Kerney (9/9)*
Despite being hurt most of last season, Kerney was reliable on the field and held players accountable in the locker room.

OTHER LOSSES
K Morten Andersen (14/0), TE Eric Beverly (16/2), CB Chris Cash (0/0), FB Justin Griffith (16/11), LB Ed Hartwell (8/6), G Matt Lehr (11/11), WR Ashley Lelie (15/10), CB Kevin Mathis (8/0), FB Fred McCrary (15/0), LB Ike Reese (16/0), QB Matt Schaub (16/0), S Lance Schulters (7/1)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 8 offense, 10 defense, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

point guy who immediately established a working rapport with quarterback Michael Vick. Petrino also retained quarterbacks coach Bill Musgrave, a favorite of Vick from the previous staff. Petrino's brother Paul was entrusted to improve the Falcons' maligned wide receivers.

Mike Zimmer was brought in to run the 4-3 defense he was asked to abandon as Dallas's defensive coordinator under Bill Parcells. With speed rusher John Abraham and Pro Bowl cornerback DeAngelo Hall, Zimmer hopes to play an aggressive style, where the team's fast players fly to the ball and force turnovers.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

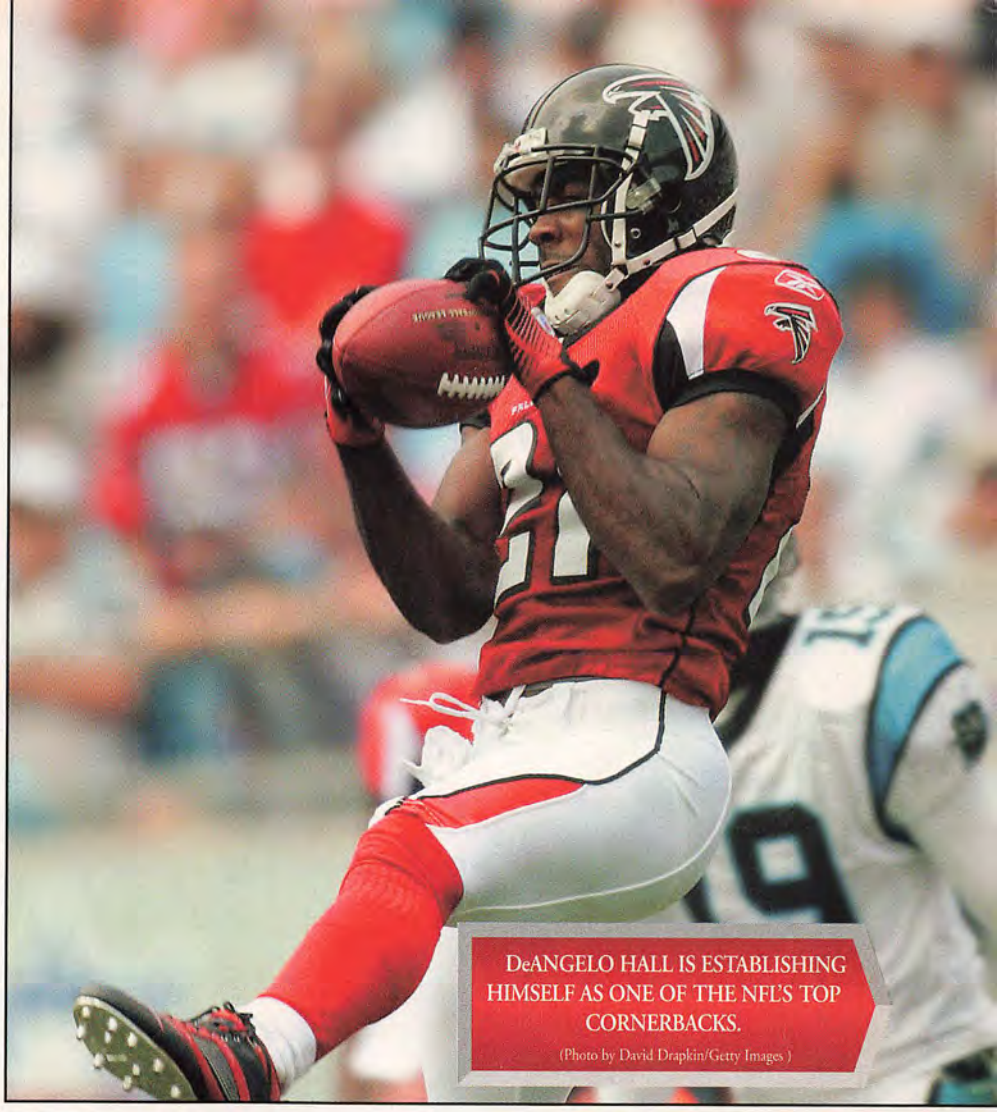
Michael Vick has had a tumultuous off-season, where his decision-making has come into question. The Falcons better hope that's not the case when he steps on the field because Vick will be allowed to audible at the line of scrimmage for the first time in years. Petrino has installed several five- and seven-step drop packages that will allow Vick to see the field better and utilize his cannon arm downfield. Joey Harrington was signed as Vick's backstop.

RATING: 7

RUNNING BACKS

The free-agent acquisition of fullback Ovie Mughelli from Baltimore was made to help tailbacks Warrick Dunn and Jerious Norwood gain the short yards that were too frequently unattainable last season. Dunn is coming off his third straight 1,000-yard plus season, however he's faded in the second halves of the past two years and he's nursing a problematic shoulder. Second-year burner Jerious Norwood is an electrifying game-breaker, who, either this season or next, could supplant Dunn as the starter.

RATING: 7.5



DeANGELO HALL IS ESTABLISHING HIMSELF AS ONE OF THE NFL'S TOP CORNERBACKS.

(Photo by David Drapkin/Getty Images)

RECEIVERS

The addition of veteran Joe Horn should provide production and leadership. Former first-round draft picks Michael Jenkins and Roddy White have yet to find their footing, even though Jenkins was money in the red zone, catching seven touchdown passes. Brian Finneran returns from a knee injury that sidelined him all of last season, but he could still be somewhat limited. Third-round pick Laurent Robinson could emerge as the No. 3 or No. 4 receiver, but he is a big question mark coming from a mid-level program (Illinois State) where he dominated at times and was ordinary at others.

Alge Crumpler is one of the best tight ends in the business. A solid blocker and Vick's go-to guy, Petrino plans to increase Crumpler's workload by employing him in an H-back role and moving him all over the field, much like Cleveland does with Kellen Winslow. Second-year player Daniel Fells is on the rise and could emerge as the top backup. The Falcons drafted Georgia's Martrez Milner, a physical specimen who could be used as the blocker in two tight end sets.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The transition from a zone-blocking scheme to traditional man-blocking techniques could prove to be the biggest plus/minus of the offense. Atlanta's linemen are smallish and struggled in the past when it came to moving a pile. The selection of beefy Texas guard Justin Blalock should help in the interior run game and in pass protection.

Undersized center Todd McClure's experience and smarts should pay off with the new audible system. Ohio State center Doug Datish was drafted for depth and to be McClure's eventual successor.

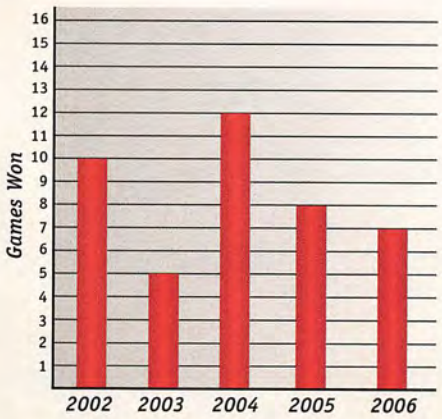
Right guard Kynan Forney and right tackle Todd Weiner are likely to excel at being able to use their strength and nastiness in the new scheme. Veteran left tackle Wayne Gandy is coming off a solid season and has shown he still has some good years left.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

As the team was hailing the first-round selection of defensive end Jamaal Anderson as Patrick Kerney's replacement at left end, Rod Coleman, one of the league's top pass-rushing tackles, ruptured his right thigh in a Jet Ski accident and was forced to have surgery that could sideline him into the season. Third-year player Jonathan Babineaux will step in. Starting nose tackle Grady Jackson likely won't return since he's suing the team for defamation and

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2002, 2004*

Falcons Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
85	Blakley, Dwayne (TE)	6-4	257	4	Missouri	16/4	W,TENN 04	OFA KC 02	Pass catching backup tight end.
83	**Crumpler, Alge (TE)**	**6-2**	**262**	**7**	**North Carolina**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 ATL 01**	**Pro Bowler could be used some at H-back.**
18	Elliott, Jamin	5-11	195	2	Delaware	1/0	FA 06	D6 CHI 02	A long shot that must stand out on special teams.
89	Fells, Daniel (TE)	6-4	252	2	Cal-Davis	0/0	OFA 06	OFA ATL 06	Second-year player could emerge as Crumpler's main backup.
86	*Finneran, Brian	6-5	210	9	Villanova	0/0	FA 00	OFA SEA 99	Returns from season-ending knee surgery.
15	Hamilton, Derrick	6-4	203	3	Clemson	0/0	FA 07	D3 SF 04	Size could help him, but he's got work to do.
87	**Horn, Joe**	**6-1**	**213**	**12**	**Itawamba JC**	**10/9**	**FA 07**	**D5 KC 96**	**Should add playmaking ability and savvy to ordinary group.**
12	**Jenkins, Michael**	**6-4**	**217**	**4**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 ATL 04**	**Effective in the red zone, but must make yards after catch.**
81	Jennings, Adam	5-9	181	2	Fresno State	15/0	D6 06	D6 ATL 06	Tiny tough guy has the numbers stacked against him.
88	Milner, Martrez (TE)	6-4	240	R	Georgia	0/0	D4 07	D4 ATL 07	Surprise pick could be backup H-back/blocking tight end.
19	Robinson, Laurent	6-2	195	R	Illinois State	0/0	D3 07	D3 ATL 07	Transition from mid-level competition could determine usage.
84	White, Roddy	6-0	208	3	UAB	16/5	D1 05	D1 ATL 05	Inconsistency is wasting his incredible talent.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
64	Alexander, P.J. (G)	6-4	297	4	Syracuse	4/4	FA 06	OFA NO 02	Switch from zone blocking scheme could have adverse affects.
63	**Blalock, Justin (G)**	**6-4**	**329**	**R**	**Texas**	**0/0**	**D2 07**	**D2 ATL 07**	**Mauler will start on the left side. Ideal fit for Petrino.**
77	Clabo, Tyson (G)	6-6	314	2	Wake Forest	10/10	FA 06	OFA DEN 04	Could be a backup at both guard spots.
61	Datish, Doug (C)	6-5	295	R	Ohio State	0/0	D6 07	D6 ATL 07	Heady pass protector could stick around for years.
68	Fonoti, Toniu (G)	6-4	350	6	Nebraska	6/0	UFA,MIA 07	D2 SD 02	Massive mauler has a chance for re-birth.
65	***Forney, Kynan (G)**	**6-3**	**307**	**7**	**Hawaii**	**7/7**	**D7 01**	**D7 ATL 01**	**Best run blocker missed much of '06 with shoulder injury.**
72	**Gandy, Wayne (T)**	**6-4**	**315**	**15**	**Auburn**	**16/16**	**T,NO 06**	**D1 RAMS 94**	**Veteran left-side starter still has some gas in the tank.**
73	*Jordan, Leander (T)	6-4	320	8	Indiana, Pa.	0/0	UFA,SD 07	D3 CARO 00	Another big body to add depth to bigger-bodied offensive line.
62	**McClure, Todd (C)**	**6-1**	**286**	**9**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**D7 99**	**D7 ATL 99**	**Makes up for lack of size with toughness and smarts.**
76	Ojinnaka, Quinn (T)	6-5	295	2	Syracuse	11/0	D5 06	D5 ATL 06	Versatile backup with a nasty temperament.
70	Omiyale, Frank (T)	6-4	310	3	Tennessee Tech	1/0	D5 05	D5 ATL 05	Falcons are waiting for him to emerge.
74	**Weiner, Todd (T)**	**6-4**	**297**	**10**	**Kansas State**	**16/16**	**UFA,SEA 02**	**D2 SEA 98**	**Tough guy could be better playing near 315 pounds.**
RUNNING BACKS									
28	**Dunn, Warrick**	**5-9**	**180**	**11**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**UFA,TB 02**	**D1 TB 97**	**Workload must be eased if he is to finish strong.**
38	McIntyre, Corey (FB)	6-0	240	3	West Virginia	4/0	W,NO 06	OFA PHA 02	Will get a shot to spell starter Ovie Mughelli.
34	**Mughelli, Ovie (FB)**	**6-1**	**255**	**5**	**Wake Forest**	**16/7**	**UFA,BLT 07**	**D4 BLT 03**	**Dunn, Norwood and Vick's bodyguard.**
32	Norwood, Jerious	6-0	203	2	Mississippi State	14/0	D3 06	D3 ATL 06	Game-breaker could supplant Dunn by end of season.
42	Robertson, Jamal (KR)	5-10	210	5	Ohio Northern	1/0	FA 06	OFA SF 02	Backup running back has produced as a kickoff returner in four NFL seasons.
44	Snelling, Jason (FB)	5-11	232	R	Virginia	0/0	D7 07	D7 ATL 07	Combo fullback/tailback is a physical runner who can catch.
QUARTERBACKS									
13	Harrington, Joey	6-4	220	6	Oregon	11/11	FA 07	D1 DET 02	In best-case scenario, he never takes a snap.
8	Redman, Chris	6-3	223	5	Louisville	0/0	FA 07	D3 BLT 00	Familiarity with Petrino could land him No. 3 job.
3	Shockley, D.J.	6-1	214	2	Georgia	0/0	D7 06	D7 ATL 06	Talented local product must fend off Redman to stick around.
7	**Vick, Michael**	**6-0**	**215**	**7**	**Virginia Tech**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 ATL 01**	**Will get his wish and be able to audible.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
55	**Abraham, John (E)**	**6-4**	**256**	**8**	**South Carolina**	**8/7**	**T,NYJ 06**	**D1 NYJ 00**	**If he's healthy, he's one of the best pass rushers in the NFL.**
98	**Anderson, Jamaal (E)**	**6-6**	**262**	**R**	**Arkansas**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 ATL 07**	**Expected to produce sacks and hold firm against the run.**
95	Babineaux, Jonathan (T)	6-2	286	3	Iowa	16/1	D2 05	D2 ATL 05	Could open the season as the starter with Coleman hurt.
97	Bryant, Anthony (T)	6-3	337	2	Alabama	5/4	W,DET 07	D6 TB 05	Big body that team hopes can contribute.
91	Carrington, Paul (E)	6-7	260	2	Central Florida	15/2	OFA 06	OFA ATL 06	Rangy second-year player has tons of promise.
93	Clemons, Nic (E)	6-6	278	2	Georgia	0/0	FA 07	OFA WSH 03	Former Redskin could add depth.
75	**Coleman, Roderick (T)**	**6-2**	**285**	**9**	**East Carolina**	**15/15**	**UFA,OAK 04**	**D5 OAK 99**	**Thigh surgery could limit his effectiveness all season.**
92	Davis, Chauncey (E)	6-2	272	3	Florida State	16/14	D4 05	D4 ATL 05	Will back up both end spots.
90	Jackson, Grady (T)	6-2	345	11	Knoxville	16/15	FA 06	D6 OAK 97	Acrimony with front office could lead to his departure.
99	Jackson, Tommy (NT)	6-1	311	2	Auburn	5/0	OFA 06	OFA ATL 06	High-motored fireplug could be No. 2 guy.
67	Lewis, Trey (T)	6-3	290	R	Washburn	0/0	D6 07	D6 ATL 07	Small-college experience, big-time ability.
94	Mallard, Josh (E)	6-2	259	3	Georgia	14/0	FA 06	D7 IND 02	Spot player always made his impact felt.
71	**Shropshire, Darrell (T)**	**6-2**	**301**	**3**	**South Carolina**	**13/1**	**D7 05**	**D7 ATL 05**	**Consistency issues are only thing holding him back.**
LINEBACKERS									
52	Beck, Jordan (M)	6-2	233	3	Cal Poly-SLO	15/0	D3 05	D3 ATL 05	Backup to Keith Brooking; must shine on special teams.
59	**Boley, Michael (O)**	**6-3**	**236**	**3**	**Southern Miss**	**16/14**	**D5 05**	**D5 ATL 05**	**If he gets more physical, could be a Pro Bowler.**
56	**Brooking, Keith (M)**	**6-2**	**245**	**10**	**Georgia Tech**	**16/16**	**D1 98**	**D1 ATL 98**	**Will start in the middle and play in nickel packages.**
53	Leake, John	6-0	241	3	Clemson	14/0	FA 05	OFA TENN 04	Decent special teamer.
54	Nicholas, Stephen (O)	6-3	225	R	South Florida	0/0	D4 07	D4 ATL 07	Could start on weak side with injury to Demorrio Williams.
50	Wilkins, Marcus (O)	6-2	231	6	Texas	16/0	UFA,CIN 07	OFA GB 02	Special teams demon will provide depth at outside linebacker.
51	**Williams, Demorrio (O)**	**6-0**	**232**	**4**	**Nebraska**	**16/9**	**D4 04**	**D4 ATL 04**	**Chest surgery could stunt a possible breakout year.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
25	Crocker, Chris (S)	5-11	192	5	Marshall	16/15	T,CLV 06	D3 CLV 03	Likely will lose starting job after struggling in coverage.
21	**Hall, DeAngelo (CB)**	**5-10**	**197**	**4**	**Virginia Tech**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 ATL 04**	**Must bounce back to live up to hype.**
23	**Houston, Chris (CB)**	**5-11**	**181**	**R**	**Arkansas**	**0/0**	**D2 07**	**D2 ATL 07**	**Smallish tough guy is strong in press coverage.**
30	Irons, David (CB)	5-11	188	R	Auburn	0/0	D6 07	D6 ATL 07	Local product viewed as special teamer/reserve nickel back.
37	*Johnson, Derrick (CB)	5-10	186	3	Washington	5/0	FA 06	D6 SF 05	Backup who joined team late last season and was placed on IR (broken arm) two games later.
26	Lowe, Omare (S)	6-1	195	5	Washington	16/0	W,SEA 06	D5 MIA 02	Very heady player can also play corner.
36	**Milloy, Lawyer (S)**	**6-0**	**190**	**12**	**Washington**	**16/15**	**FA 06**	**D2 NE 96**	**No player had a more all-around impact last season.**
20	Rossum, Allen (CB/KR)	5-8	187	10	Notre Dame	16/6	UFA,GB 02	D3 PHA 98	Regained his return chops, but a liability on defense.
29	*Sanders, Lewis (CB)	6-1	210	8	Maryland	9/7	UFA,HOU 07	D4 CLV 00	Big vet provides experience in reserve.
39	Stone, Daren (S)	6-3	221	R	Maine	0/0	D6 07	D6 ATL 07	Freak athlete will be groomed to back up Milloy.
43	Turnbull, Nick (S)	6-2	222	2	Florida International	3/0	W, CHI 07	UFA ATL 06	Falcons hope he can provide depth at safety.
24	**Williams, Jimmy (S)**	**6-2**	**216**	**2**	**Virginia Tech**	**13/5**	**D2 06**	**D2 ATL 06**	**Awarded starting job, but he has to prove he can cover.**
SPECIALISTS									
4	Cundiff, Billy (K)	6-1	201	5	Drake	5/0	UFA, NO 07	OFA DALL 02	Leading candidate for kicking job.
2	Elling, Aaron (K)	6-2	201	4	Wyoming	0/0	FA 07	OFA SEA 02	Has a shot to earn placekicking job, but will have to beat out Cundiff.
9	Koenen, Michael (P)	5-11	195	3	Western Washington	16/0	OFA 05	OFA ATL 05	Youngster has loads of promise to be good for a long time.
47	Stutz, Boone (LS)	6-6	256	2	Texas A&M	16/0	FA 06	OFA ATL 06	Very sound and consistent long snapper.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Fred Gibson (1, Georgia), Vincent Marshall (Houston), Eric Newman (Louisiana Tech), Dan Sheldon (1, Northern Illinois), Eric Weems (Bethune-Cookman); TE Jon Hamlett (North Carolina); OT Bo Lacy (1, Arkansas); OGs Renardo Foster (Louisville), Kurt Quarterman (Louisville); Cs Brian Ferentz (1, Iowa), Jason Palermo (1, Wisconsin); RBs Taurean Henderson (1, Texas Tech), Justin Vincent (Louisiana State); DE Noland Burchette (Virginia Tech); DTs Michael Bozeman (1, Mississippi), David Patterson (Ohio State), Kelly Talavou (Utah); LBs Tony Taylor (Georgia), Travis Williams (1, Auburn); CBs Brent Grimes (1, Shippensburg), Antoine Harris (1, Louisville); Ss Allyn Bacchus (Villanova), Jeramie Johnson (Mississippi State); Ps Adam Anderson (1, Western Michigan), Gordon Ely-Kelso (Georgia)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Michael Vick's adaptation to new Coach Bobby Petrino's audible system. If Vick gets it, he might do a whole lot less running since he'll have alternatives.

*The health of the defense. Starting outside linebacker Demorrio Williams and tackle Rod Coleman will miss the entire off-season, preseason and possibly the start of the regular season because of chest and thigh injuries, respectively, that required surgery. End John Abraham's durability is a constant concern.

*Bobby Petrino's transition to the NFL. College success stories Butch Davis, Steve Spurrier and Nick Saban couldn't make it happen in the new-era NFL. Gaining the immediate respect of his players is an important first step.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Michael Vick

Quarterback Michael Vick ended last season with a career-high 20 touchdown passes and a place in history as the first quarterback to rush for more than 1,000 yards. Still, the Falcons finished out of the playoffs for the second straight year and the aura once surrounding him has rapidly faded.

Complicating things, after Vick made inappropriate hand gestures to fans following a late-season loss to New Orleans, Vick embarked on a string of off-field incidents that brought his judgment seriously into question.

Ending a week in which Vick skipped a Congressional breakfast at which he was to be honored, then had a property he owned in Virginia investigated for illegal dog fighting, Goodell met with Vick and basically let him know, enough is enough.

Vick now is charged with keeping his name out of the headlines for the wrong reasons and winning ball games in a system that should play to his strengths. Petrino is going to let Vick audible, which he's been begging to do, and he's going to employ more five- and seven-step drops in a vertical passing game.

How Vick produces on and off the field could go a long way toward his legacy and future in Atlanta.

invasion of privacy for allegedly releasing private medical information to the media last summer. End John Abraham is one of the best in the business if he's healthy, but that's a major question mark.

RATING: 6.5

LINEBACKERS

Starting weak-side linebacker Demorrio Williams, a big-time playmaker, tore pectoral muscles lifting weights and had to have surgery and could miss the start of the season. Rookie Stephen Nicholas could take his place. Keith Brooking is making the permanent shift from outside to middle but with both his starting tackles from last season possibly out of action, he could have to take on more blocks than he'd like. Strong-side linebacker Michael Boley is an up-and-comer who could emerge as a star if he gets more physical. Veteran special teamer Marcus Wilkins was signed in free agency for depth at both outside spots.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

Cornerback DeAngelo Hall made it to the Pro Bowl for the second straight time, but he must be better, particularly in deep coverage. Second-round draft pick Chris Houston is slated to start at right cornerback and he will get picked on early. Jimmy Williams moves from cornerback to free safety and how the big hitter adapts to playing centerfield will be worth watching. Lawyer Milloy, already a tackling machine, may be asked to make even more plays in the box with the injuries to players on the first levels of the defense. Veteran cornerback Lewis Sanders could end up being the nickel back, replacing retiring vet Kevin Mathis.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter/kickoff specialist Michael Koenen will continue to be groomed as a field-goal kicker, but the Falcons prefer him kicking off and punting. When asked to handle all three kicking duties early last season, Koenen struggled, forcing the enlistment of Morton Andersen, who was not brought back.

Allen Rossum remains one of the NFL's better return men, but his high salary and inconsistency as a defensive back could make him expendable. Norwood returned kickoffs some as a rookie. Boone Stutz was a solid long snapper as a rookie and he appears to be the frontrunner to retain his job.

RATING: 6.5

INTANGIBLES

The Falcons have already been bit by the injury bug with several veterans questionable for training camp. Atlanta does not boast much depth, especially experienced depth, and the loss of any frontline starter could spell big trouble.

RATING: Minus 1

— Steve Wyche

2006 RESULTS

Record: 7-9

Sep. 10	at Carolina	20- 6
Sep. 17	TAMPA BAY	14- 3
Sep. 25	at New Orleans	3-23
Oct. 1	ARIZONA	32-10
Oct. 8	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 15	N.Y. GIANTS	14-27
Oct. 22	PITTSBURGH (OT)	41-38
Oct. 29	at Cincinnati	29-27
Nov. 5	at Detroit	14-30
Nov. 12	CLEVELAND	13-17
Nov. 19	at Baltimore	10-24
Nov. 26	NEW ORLEANS	13-31
Dec. 3	at Washington	24-14
Dec. 10	at Tampa Bay	17- 6
Dec. 16	DALLAS	28-38
Dec. 24	CAROLINA	3-10
Dec. 31	at Philadelphia	17-24

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 10	at N.Y. Jets (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 17	at Buffalo (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 27	CINCINNATI (Mon.)	8:00
Aug. 31	BALTIMORE (Fri.)	7:30
Sep. 9	at Minnesota	12:00
Sep. 16	at Jacksonville	1:00
Sep. 23	CAROLINA	4:15
Sep. 30	HOUSTON	1:00
Oct. 7	at Tennessee	12:00
Oct. 15	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 21	at New Orleans	12:00
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Nov. 11	at Carolina	1:00
Nov. 18	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Nov. 22	INDIANAPOLIS (Thu.)	8:15
Dec. 2	at St. Louis	12:00
Dec. 10	NEW ORLEANS (Mon.)	8:30
Dec. 16	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Dec. 23	at Arizona	2:05
Dec. 30	SEATTLE	1:00

CAROLINA PANTHERS

2006 RECORD: 8-8 | STADIUM: Bank of America Stadium, 73,248, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

NFC SOUTH

www.panthers.com

AT A GLANCE

800 South Mint St.
Charlotte, N.C. 28202
(704) 358-7000

TRAINING CAMP:
Wofford College; Spartanburg, S.C.

COACH:
John Fox, 6th year with Panthers and as NFL head coach (49-38)

GENERAL MANAGER:
Marty Hurney

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Don Gregory

DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:
Mark Koncz

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Jeff Davidson	Offensive coordinator	13	1
David Magazu	Offensive line	5	5
Jim Skipper	*Running backs	20	6
Richard Williamson	Receivers	25	13
Geep Chryst	Tight ends/Offensive Quality Control	15	2
Mike McCoy	QBs/passing coordinator	8	8
Mike Trgovac	Defensive coordinator	13	6
Sal Sunseri	Defensive line	6	6
Ken Flajole	Linebackers	10	5
Tim Lewis	Secondary	13	1
Mike Gillhamer	Safeties	8	4
Sam Mills III	Defensive quality control	2	2
Danny Crossman	Special teams	5	5
Tony Levine	Special teams asst./S&C	2	2
Jerry Simmons	Strength & Conditioning	20	9

*Assistant head coach

Flying Under the Radar Means Success for Panthers

The Carolina Panthers have developed an odd trend under coach John Fox over the past four seasons: They only play well when they aren't expected to.

A Super Bowl appearance in 2003 and NFC title-game appearance in 2005 both heightened expectations. Then, picked as possible world champions by many in both 2004 and 2006, the Panthers floundered and didn't make the playoffs at all.

This season, after the 8-8 disappointment in 2006, the Panthers once again will fly below the radar. Fox and general manager Marty Hurney are both in danger of losing their jobs if Carolina tanks badly in 2007. Yet, the Panthers barely dabbled in the free-agent market and will start the season with almost exactly the same team they started with in 2006, before injuries and a sputtering offense undid them.

To win, Carolina must score more. The Panthers were 27th in the NFL in points scored in 2006, which led to the dismissal of veteran offensive coordinator Dan Henning and the hiring of new offensive coordinator Jeff Davidson.

COACHING

The bloom is off the rose in Carolina for Fox, who has enjoyed more success than any other Panthers coach but also gets criticized for an overly conservative nature. Fox has tried to install a run-first offense at Carolina for five straight years, but it really only worked once — when Stephen Davis was pounding for first downs in 2003. His defenses have been much more successful and aggressive than his offenses for the most part — the Panthers were No. 7 in total defense in 2006 and No. 24 in total offense.

Fox felt enough heat after 2006 that he fired three assistants. The most important new hire was Davidson, a former NFL offensive lineman who will install a zone-blocking scheme and promises to get the ball more often to dazzling wide receiver Steve Smith.

RATING: 7

QUARTERBACKS

Jake Delhomme, 32, remains the offense's veteran leader. But he will need to improve his own performance if the Panthers are to go anywhere. Six of his 11 interceptions last season were in the fourth quarter, many at critical times. For a quarterback who has made a living with fourth-quarter comebacks, it was a down season.

The Panthers upgraded at backup quarterback, releasing Chris Weinke and signing 27-year-old David Carr. Carr has a stronger arm than Delhomme, but less pocket presence and confidence. He will be a decent alternative to Delhomme, though, if necessary.

The third-string quarterback will be Brett Basanez, an undrafted free agent in 2006 who is raw, but well liked in the organization.

RATING: 7

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
LB Jon Beason

Carolina's first-round draft choice might turn into the next Will Witherspoon, starting on the weak side. Or, when and if Dan Morgan gets hurt again, Beason could slide to the middle and start there.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
DE Dave Ball, QB David Carr, S Deke Cooper, CB Curtis Deloatch, NT Chad Lavalais, LB Terrence Melton

KEY LOSS:
WR Keyshawn Johnson (16/16)*
Released after the draft, Johnson had 70 catches for 815 yards and five total touchdowns last season. The Panthers will miss him, particularly if Drew Carter and Dwayne Jarrett struggle.

OTHER LOSSES
S Colin Branch (16/4), LB Vinny Ciurciu (16/0), LB Chris Draft (16/16), T Todd Fordham (16/1), WR Karl Hankton (16/0), TE Kris Mangum (15/5), S Kevin McCadam (16/0), TE Mike Seidman (3/3), DE Al Wallace (16/2), QB Chris Weinke (3/3), S Shaun Williams (12/12)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 10 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

RUNNING BACKS

The Panthers have three possible running backs, which is another way of saying they don't know what they're going to do here. Second-year back DeAngelo Williams could assume starting duties; he showed a few flashes of greatness as a rookie. He will have to beat out DeShaun Foster, who has never had a 900-yard season in his five years as one of the Panthers' primary ball carriers. Foster is injury-prone but has a good work ethic and has always been a Fox favorite.

The "X" factor is bruising back Eric Shelton, who was supposed to be a Stephen Davis clone, but has hardly played in two years. Davidson is expected to give him a better shot. Those three backs combined for only five total touchdowns in 2006.

At fullback, veteran Brad Hoover is steady and unspectacular in a block-first role. Utility man Nick Goings can play both positions and is a valued special-teamer.

RATING: 6

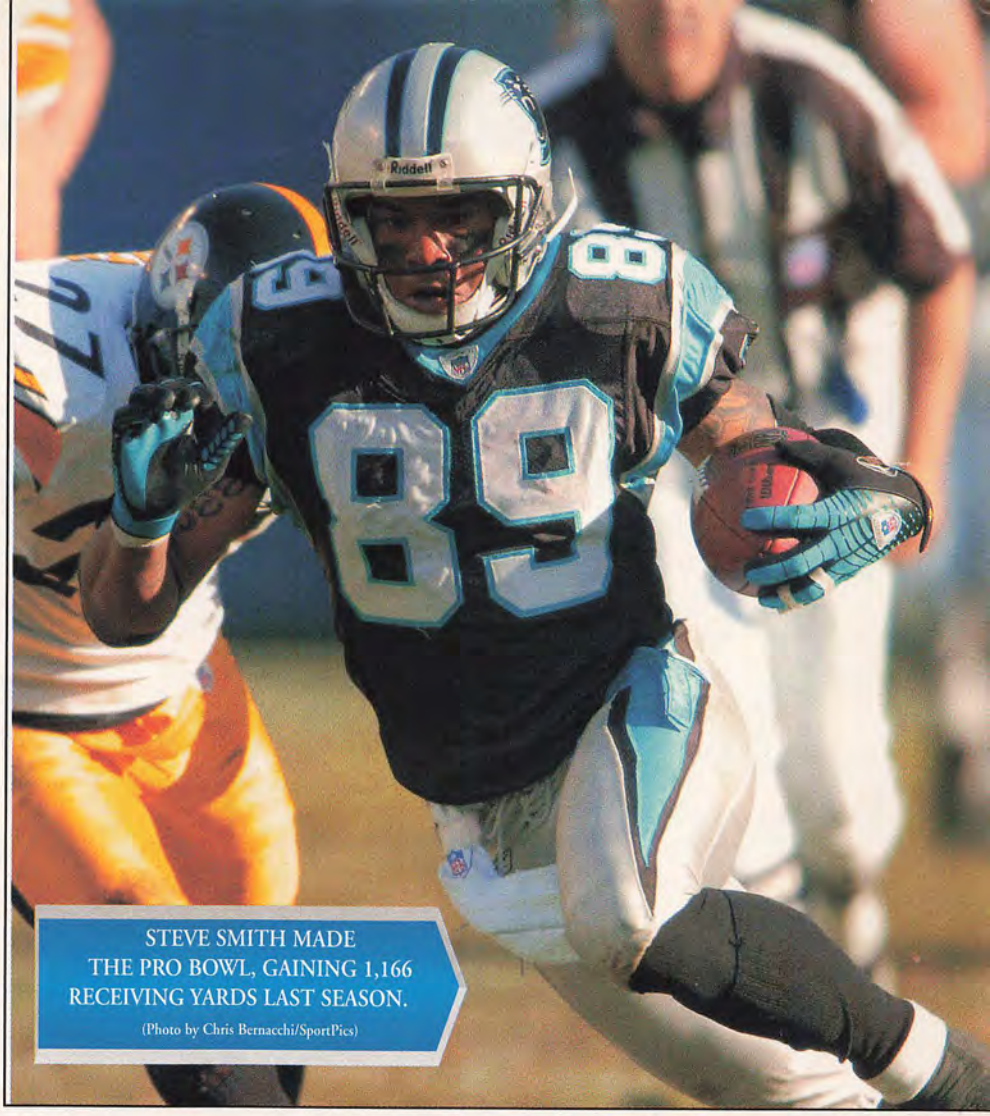
RECEIVERS

Wide receiver Steve Smith is in the prime of his career and is Carolina's only marquee player on offense. The electrifying Smith made the Pro Bowl while garnering 1,166 receiving yards and nine total touchdowns last season, which would have been wonderful for most NFL receivers, but is still below what the Panthers need from Smith. Other teams recognized that they could defend Carolina with seven in the box last season and simply double-teamed Smith on every play late in the year (he had zero 100-yard receiving games in the final seven weeks).

Carolina gambled by releasing veteran Keyshawn Johnson right after the draft. They had just chosen Dwayne Jarrett in the second round; they hope the rookie becomes a big possession receiver in Johnson's mold. He will compete with speedster Drew Carter, who is faster but not as strong, for the role of No. 2 starter. Both will get a lot of opportunities to see single coverage because of all the attention that will be paid to Smith. Jarrett, who had 41 touchdowns in only three years at Southern Cal, will become an immediate red-zone threat.

The Panthers don't use their tight ends for much other than blocking. Michael Gaines and Jeff King will be the two top players there.

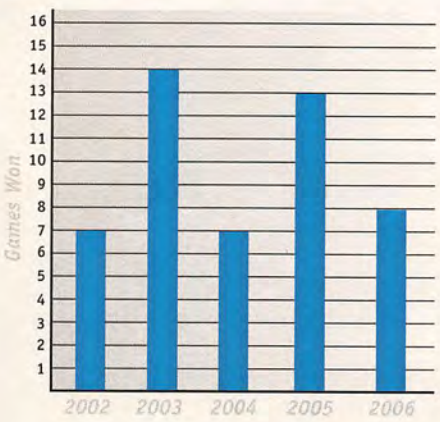
RATING: 7



STEVE SMITH MADE THE PRO BOWL, GAINING 1,166 RECEIVING YARDS LAST SEASON.

(Photo by Chris Bernacchi/SportPics)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2005*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Panthers hope the zone-blocking scheme recently popularized by Denver and Atlanta will inject some life into a stagnant offensive line. With a fairly undersized group of linemen by NFL standards, it may help. A successful return by Travelle Wharton after a torn ACL in Sept. 2006 would help even more. If Wharton can take back over at left tackle and protect Delhomme's blindside, that will allow Jordan Gross to move to his more natural right tackle position.

Center Justin Hartwig was a big disappointment last season due to a lingering groin injury. He may come back strong, or could be replaced by Ryan Kalil, a second-round pick who was considered the best center in the 2007 draft.

At left guard, Mike Wahle is a respected veteran and probably the team's best lineman the past two seasons. Right guard is undecided, with Evan Mathis holding a slight lead entering training camp over Will Montgomery.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

If the Panthers win in 2007, it will start here. Carolina's defensive front, long a strength, still has the potential to be among the NFL's best. Their finest defensive player is left defensive end Julius Peppers, whose freakish athleticism and pass-rushing ability sometimes obscures the fact that he has improved dramatically against the run since entering the league.

The Panthers shopped defensive tackle Kris Jenkins around before the draft, trying to pick up an extra first-round pick. It didn't work, so Carolina kept Jenkins, who can be dominating, but has had weight issues for years. Maake Kemoeatu lines up on the inside along with Jenkins; he's a two-down run-stopper without Jenkins' pass-rush ability. Damione Lewis and Jordan Carstens are fine alternatives inside.

Right defensive end is a question. Veteran Mike Rucker is trying to return after a torn ACL. Undersized pass rusher Stanley McClover or third-

Panthers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
11	Biddle, Taye	6-1	175	2	Mississippi	2/0	FA 06	OFA CARO 06	Undersized speedster will have a shot at punt returner.
18	**Carter, Drew**	**6-3**	**200**	**4**	**Ohio State**	**14/2**	**D5 04**	**D5 CARO 04**	**Downfield threat will battle for No.2 receiver spot with rookie Jarrett.**
83	Colbert, Keary	6-1	200	4	Southern Cal	12/3	D2 04	D2 CARO 04	Promising as a rookie, disappointing ever since — likely No.4 receiver.
84	**Gaines, Michael (TE)**	**6-3**	**280**	**4**	**Central Florida**	**16/9**	**D7 04**	**D7 CARO 04**	**Shows flashes of potential, then disappears for several games.**
81	Horn, Chris	5-11	195	4	Rocky Mountain	0/0	FA 07	OFA KC 03	Will need a spectacular preseason to make the team.
82	Jarrett, Dwayne	6-4	219	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D2 07	D2 CARO 07	In the mold of Keyshawn, without the outsized personality.
87	King, Jeff (TE)	6-3	253	2	Virginia Tech	12/0	D5 06	D5 CARO 06	Promising enough that he will get a chance to take Gaines' starting role.
10	Robinson, Ryne (KR)	5-8	179	R	Miami, Ohio	0/0	D4 07	D4 CARO 07	Slight, but an electrifying punt returner in college.
88	Rosario, Dante (TE)	6-4	240	R	Oregon	0/0	D5 07	D5 CARO 07	An H-back that has very good hands; average blocker.
89	**Smith, Steve**	**5-9**	**185**	**7**	**Utah**	**14/14**	**D3 01**	**D3 CARO 01**	**One of best receivers in NFL; he has to get the ball more in '07.**
80	Youngblood, Kevin	6-2	215	1	Clemson	1/0	FA 07	OFA ATL 04	Nice size, but Panthers' "big receiver" niche is already crowded.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
6	Batiste, D'Anthony (G)	6-4	318	2	Louisiana-Lafayette	0/0	FA 06	OFA DALL 06	Good size; went to Delhomme's college; not very athletic.
73	Bridges, Jeremy (T)	6-4	326	5	Southern Mississippi	14/14	FA 06	D6 PHA 03	A pleasant surprise in '06, starting 14 games. Will add depth.
79	*Butler, Rashad (T)	6-4	293	2	Miami	0/0	D3 06	D3 CARO 06	Undersized and long-armed for a tackle, but has potential.
69	**Gross, Jordan (T)**	**6-4**	**300**	**5**	**Utah**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 CARO 03**	**Genial, athletic and back to his preferred right tackle position this season.**
63	Hangartner, Geoff (C/G)	6-5	301	3	Texas A&M	16/15	D5 05	D5 CARO 05	Good student of game; replaced injured Hartwig throughout '06.
75	***Hartwig, Justin (C)**	**6-4**	**312**	**6**	**Kansas**	**2/1**	**UFA,TENN 06**	**D6 TENN 02**	**Big disappointment due to groin injury in '06; big year needed.**
65	Kalil, Ryan (C)	6-2	291	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D2 07	D2 CARO 07	Father was Jim Kelly's center with USFL's Houston Gamblers.
71	**Mathis, Evan (G)**	**6-5**	**304**	**3**	**Alabama**	**15/15**	**D3 05**	**D3 CARO 05**	**15 starts last year; leader for the open right guard slot.**
66	Montgomery, Will (C)	6-3	312	2	Virginia Tech	7/4	D7 06	D7 CARO 06	One of three Virginia Tech players Panthers drafted in '06.
	Sciullo, Steve (G)	6-5	325	3	Marshall	0/0	FA 07	D4 IND 03	Would need several unexpected injuries to stick.
68	***Wahle, Mike (G)**	**6-6**	**304**	**10**	**Navy**	**13/13**	**FA 05**	**SD2 GB 98**	**A mainstay at left guard and very respected in the locker room.**
70	***Wharton, Travelle (T)**	**6-4**	**312**	**4**	**South Carolina**	**1/1**	**D3 04**	**D3 CARO 04**	**Can blind-side protector return to 100 percent from knee surgery?**
RUNNING BACKS									
26	**Foster, DeShaun**	**6-0**	**222**	**6**	**UCLA**	**14/14**	**D2 02**	**D2 CARO 02**	**Likely starter has never had a 1,000-yard season (high was 897 in '06).**
37	Goings, Nick	6-0	225	7	Pittsburgh	11/0	OFA 01	OFA CARO 01	Jack of all trades can play halfback, fullback and contributes on special teams.
45	**Hoover, Brad (FB)**	**6-0**	**245**	**8**	**Western Carolina**	**16/12**	**OFA 00**	**OFA CARO 00**	**42 touches in all of '06, hundreds of blocks.**
48	Jackson, Steven (FB)	6-2	260	1	Clemson	0/0	FA 06	OFA MINN 06	Biggest running back in camp is a long shot.
32	Shelton, Eric	6-1	246	3	Louisville	9/0	D2 05	D2 CARO 05	Will he ever get a chance to show what he does — or doesn't — have?
34	Williams, DeAngelo	5-9	217	2	Memphis	13/2	D1 06	D1 CARO 06	Verbose, likable, breakaway threat will get more touches in '07.
QUARTERBACKS									
14	Basanez, Brett	6-2	210	1	Northwestern	1/0	FA 06	OFA CARO 06	Has No.3 job basically nailed down, but a long way from No. 2.
8	Carr, David	6-3	216	6	Fresno State	16/16	FA 07	D1 HOUS 02	Says he "wants to take a deep breath" after mixed Houston experience.
17	**Delhomme, Jake**	**6-2**	**215**	**8**	**Southwestern Louisiana**	**13/13**	**UFA,NO 03**	**OFA NO 97**	**Still excitable, still a gambler, still a leader, still clear No. 1.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
96	Ball, Dave (E)	6-5	277	4	UCLA	10/0	FA 07	D5 SD 04	Likely a numbers-game victim at Panthers' deepest position.
67	*Carstens, Jordan (T)	6-5	300	4	Iowa State	1/0	FA 04	OFA CARO 04	Not bad against the run in a pinch; should stick again.
60	Grigsby, Otis (E)	6-3	260	2	Kentucky	0/0	FA 07	OFA MIA 03	Lightest D-lineman in camp better show some major speed.
77	**Jenkins, Kris (T)**	**6-4**	**335**	**7**	**Maryland**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 CARO 01**	**Since he was trade bait, will he return with good attitude?**
95	Johnson, Charles (E)	6-2	270	R	Georgia	0/0	D3 07	D3 CARO 07	Could one day replace Rucker; good at batting down passes.
91	Lavalais, Chad (T)	6-1	292	3	Louisiana State	0/0	FA 07	D5 ATL 04	Occasional Falcon starter; if motivated, he might make it.
99	**Kemoeatu, Maake (NT)**	**6-5**	**350**	**6**	**Utah**	**16/14**	**UFA,BLT 06**	**OFA BLT 02**	**Huge run-stuffer, but a two-down player who can't get to the passer.**
92	Lewis, Damione (T)	6-2	301	7	Miami	16/3	UFA,STL 06	D1 STL 01	Comes in for Kemoeatu some as inside rusher on third downs.
74	McClover, Stanley (E)	6-2	263	2	Auburn	2/0	D7 06	D7 CARO 06	Surprisingly quick around the corner, but can he defend run?
94	Moorehead, Kindal (T)	6-2	285	5	Alabama	16/0	D5 03	D5 CARO 03	Steady plugger gives the Panthers good depth inside.
90	**Peppers, Julius (E)**	**6-7**	**283**	**6**	**North Carolina**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 CARO 02**	**Panthers' best defensive player is also one of NFL's true "freaks."**
93	***Rucker, Michael (E)**	**6-5**	**275**	**9**	**Nebraska**	**14/14**	**D2 99**	**D2 CARO 99**	**Can he come off major knee injury to be effective one more time?**
98	Williams, Stephen (T)	6-2	306	2	Northwest Missouri State	11/0	FA 07	OFA KC 06	Long odds, but at least he has decent size.
LINEBACKERS									
50	Anderson, James (O)	6-2	232	2	Virginia Tech	16/2	D3 06	D3 CARO 06	Two sacks in Panthers' final game of '06; a contender on weak side.
52	**Beason, Jon (O)**	**6-0**	**237**	**R**	**Miami**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 CARO 07**	**Explosive rookie: put him on the fast track for playing time.**
58	**Davis, Thomas (O)**	**6-0**	**231**	**3**	**Georgia**	**14/14**	**D1 05**	**D1 CARO 05**	**Solid tackler, but not involved in enough big plays; more impact needed.**
53	Diggs, Na'il (O)	6-4	240	8	Ohio State	15/10	FA 06	D4 GB 00	No turnovers of any type in 10 starts in '06; an insurance policy.
57	Jamison, Brandon	6-1	205	2	West Georgia	7/0	W,ATL 06	OFA ATL 06	Undersized, but gritty special-teamer might have a chance.
54	Melton, Terrence (O)	6-1	235	4	Rice	16/0	FA 07	FA ATL 04	Journeyman also has Arena League and CFL experience.
55	***Morgan, Dan (M)**	**6-2**	**245**	**7**	**Miami**	**1/1**	**D1 01**	**D1 CARO 01**	**Susceptible to concussions, incredibly fast — a true enigma for '07.**
59	Seward, Adam (M)	6-2	248	3	Nevada-Las Vegas	16/2	D5 05	D5 CARO 05	Good on special teams, but nothing like Morgan in the middle.
49	Shaw, Tim	6-1	236	R	Penn State	0/0	D5 07	D5 CARO 07	High-character guy could make a quick special-teams impact.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
27	*Byrum, Dion (CB)	5-10	192	2	Ohio	3/0	FA 06	OFA CHI 06	Late-season '06 signing was a quick study.
35	Cooper, Deke (S)	6-2	210	5	Notre Dame	1/0	UFA,SF 07	OFA ARIZ 00	On a thin roster, will compete for a starting job.
41	Deloatch, Curtis (CB)	6-2	214	4	North Carolina A&T	7/0	FA 07	OFA NYG 04	Long shot with nice size and North Carolina roots.
20	**Gamble, Chris (CB)**	**6-1**	**200**	**4**	**Ohio State**	**15/13**	**D1 04**	**D1 CARO 04**	**Very athletic, but his decision-making is questionable.**
	Garrett, Kevin (CB)	5-9	194	3	Southern Methodist	1/0	FA 07	D5 STL 04	Shortest defensive back in camp will have to prove he can defend big receivers.
23	*Howard, Reggie (CB)	6-0	185	8	Memphis	6/0	FA 06	OFA CARO 00	Left team for personal reasons in '06; might return.
21	**Lucas, Ken (CB)**	**6-0**	**205**	**7**	**Mississippi**	**13/12**	**UFA,SEA 05**	**D2 SEA 01**	**"Luke" has great coverage skills; he's not so great vs. run.**
31	Marshall, Richard (CB)	5-11	189	2	Fresno State	16/8	D2 06	D2 CARO 06	High-impact rookie a year ago looks to improve in Year Two.
30	**Minter, Mike (S)**	**5-10**	**195**	**11**	**Nebraska**	**16/16**	**D2 97**	**D2 CARO 97**	**Eloquent leader will retire after season concludes.**
35	Morton, Christian (CB)	6-0	181	2	Illinois	7/2	FA 06	D7 NE 04	Highlight last season was an interception of Bulger.
29	Newton, Cam (S)	6-1	203	3	Furman	3/0	FA 06	OFA ATL 05	Has a chance only because safety crop is questionable.
33	**Salley, Nate (S)**	**6-1**	**216**	**2**	**Ohio State**	**8/0**	**D4 06**	**D4 CARO 06**	**Is former Buckeye smart and tough enough to win starting job?**
22	Strait, Derrick (CB)	5-11	189	4	Oklahoma	15/4	W,CHI 06	D3 NYJ 04	Lots of good headline possibilities if he ever pans out.
24	*Wilds, Garnell (CB)	5-11	195	1	Virginia Tech	0/0	FA 05	OFA WSH 04	Another former Hokie, which means he's a good special-teamer.
27	Wilson, C.J. (S)	6-1	195	R	Baylor	0/0	D7 07	D7 CARO 07	Played corner in college, but expected to convert in NFL.
SPECIALISTS									
7	Baker, Jason (P)	6-2	205	7	Iowa	16/0	T,DEN 05	OFA PHA 01	Low-maintenance, high net average and a good holder, too.
4	Kasay, John (K)	5-10	198	17	Georgia	16/0	UFA,SEA 95	D4 SEA 91	No.17 all time on NFL scoring list; has ice water in his veins.
56	Kyle, Jason (LS)	6-3	242	13	Arizona State	16/0	UFA,SF 01	D4 SEA 95	Has never had a bad snap with Panthers, and is superstitious about it.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; FFA=Franchise Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Jahkeen Gilmore (Indiana), Julius McClellan (North Carolina Central), Justin McCullum (1, Stanford); TE Chad Upshaw (Buffalo); OTs Eric Graham (East Carolina), Theodric Watson (South Florida); OGs Nathan Bennett (Clemson), Rueben Riley (Michigan); QB Dalton Bell (West Texas A&M); RB Alex Haynes (1, Central Florida); FB Billy Latkso (Florida); DEs Rondell Biggs (Michigan), Jason Hall (1, Tennessee); DTs Brent Curvey (Iowa State), Marques Thornton (Texas A&M); LB Mickey Pimentel (California); Ss Jesse Daniels (Louisiana State), Quinton Teal (Coastal Carolina); PK Andrew Wellock (Eastern Michigan)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Dan Morgan's health. The Panthers' defense is about 20 percent better when Morgan is on the field. But he has missed 42 percent of his possible career starts and now has a career-threatening concussion problem. He is going to try and play again.

*Jeff Davidson's stamp. What sort of imprint will new offensive coordinator Jeff Davidson try to put on this team? Davidson will install a zone-blocking scheme and promises to get the ball more to Steve Smith, but beyond that, it's uncertain what he will do.

*A running back battle. The Panthers don't have a running back on their roster that has ever gained 1,000 yards in a season. Incumbent DeShaun Foster and second-year man DeAngelo Williams will fight for the most carries. It will be interesting to see if power back Eric Shelton finally gets into the mix, too.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Jake Delhomme

Jake Delhomme is still the No.1 quarterback at Carolina, There is no controversy. At least not yet.

The Panthers made it abundantly clear throughout the spring after signing backup David Carr that Delhomme will be the starter in September. But for the first time in his Panthers career, Delhomme has a primary backup who is both five years younger and has actually started more NFL games than he has.

The Panthers jettisoned Chris Weinke in the off-season and signed Carr — the former overall No.1 draft choice who spent five mostly disappointing years in Houston. Carr says he will be Delhomme's biggest fan on the sideline and seems to mean it.

But if Delhomme and the Panthers struggle badly to begin the season, things might change. Head coach John Fox and general manager Marty Hurney know their own jobs are in jeopardy if the Panthers have a horrendous year. Delhomme's fourth season as the Panthers quarterback last season was mediocre, as Carolina's overall scoring average dropped to 27th in the NFL. His statistics weren't terrible, but the Panthers simply didn't score enough. Delhomme needs to lift his game in 2007, or there's going to be an awful lot of Carr talk in Carolina.

round draft pick Charles Johnson might steal the job if Rucker doesn't progress.

RATING: 9

LINEBACKERS

Can Dan Morgan stay healthy? Morgan has been plagued by injuries, most recently serious concussion problems. But because he is so talented, wants to play so badly and has been cleared by doctors, the Panthers will stick him at middle linebacker again this season and hope for the best. Morgan is the team's fastest linebacker and best run-stopper.

If he falters, it's likely that No. 1 pick Jon Beason will inherit Morgan's role. Beason has a Miami pedigree like Morgan, but isn't as quick. If Morgan stays healthy, Beason may beat out James Anderson and Na'il Diggs for the weak-side linebacker job. Hard-hitting, inconsistent Thomas Davis has a stranglehold on the strong-side linebacker spot. Davis might be switched back to safety, though, if the Panthers have injury problems there.

RATING: 6

SECONDARY

Carolina is happy with its trio of cornerbacks: Chris Gamble, Richard Marshall and Ken Lucas give the Panthers a strong coverage group. Gamble is aptly named; he does gamble too often, but also has the best athleticism of the three. Marshall is a surer tackler than Lucas, but not as sticky-fingered.

Safety is a big issue. Mike Minter has already declared this will be his last season, and he's lost a step. Nate Salley or Deke Cooper could grab the other safety position, but so could any of several free agents or seventh-round pick C.J. Wilson if he makes a conversion from cornerback.

RATING: 6

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Panthers have two of the NFL's most consistent kickers in kicker John Kasay and punter Jason Baker. Kasay, the last Panther remaining from the original 1995 team, was 20-for-20 on field goal attempts of under 50 yards in 2006. Baker was a Pro Bowl alternate and is a very good directional punter.

On returns, though, Carolina must improve from a horrid 2006, when it was dead last on both kickoff and punt returns. Fourth-round draft choice Ryne Robinson will probably handle punts, with DeAngelo Williams the likely kickoff returner. Long snapper Jason Kyle is very good and probably will hold on for another year.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

The Panthers have never had consecutive winning seasons and seem to be most effective when they can sneak up on other teams. With few expectations outside their own locker room, Carolina may be able to head in the right direction again.

RATING: Plus 1

— Scott Fowler

2006 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 10	ATLANTA	6-20
Sep. 17	at Minnesota (OT)	13-16
Sep. 24	at Tampa Bay	26-24
Oct. 1	NEW ORLEANS	21-18
Oct. 8	CLEVELAND	20-12
Oct. 15	at Baltimore	23-21
Oct. 22	at Cincinnati	14-17
Oct. 29	DALLAS	14-35
Nov. 5	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 13	TAMPA BAY	24-10
Nov. 19	ST. LOUIS	15- 0
Nov. 26	at Washington	13-17
Dec. 4	at Philadelphia	24-27
Dec. 10	N.Y. GIANTS	13-27
Dec. 17	PITTSBURGH	3-37
Dec. 24	at Atlanta	10- 3
Dec. 31	at New Orleans	31-21

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	at N.Y. Giants (Sat.)	8:00
Aug. 17	at Philadelphia (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 24	NEW ENGLAND (Fri.)	8:00
Aug. 30	PITTSBURGH (Thu.)	8:00
Sep. 9	at St. Louis	12:00
Sep. 16	HOUSTON	1:00
Sep. 23	at Atlanta	4:15
Sep. 30	TAMPA BAY	4:05
Oct. 7	at New Orleans	12:00
Oct. 14	at Arizona	1:05
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Nov. 4	at Tennessee	12:00
Nov. 11	ATLANTA	1:00
Nov. 18	at Green Bay	12:00
Nov. 25	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Dec. 2	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Dec. 9	at Jacksonville	1:00
Dec. 16	SEATTLE	1:00
Dec. 22	DALLAS (Sat.)	8:15
Dec. 30	at Tampa Bay	1:00

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

2006 RECORD: 11-7 | STADIUM: Louisiana Superdome, 68,390, Momentum SportsExe | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

NFC SOUTH | www.neworleanssaints.com

AT A GLANCE

5800 Airline Highway
Metairie, LA 70003
(504) 733-0255

TRAINING CAMP:
Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss.

COACH:
Sean Payton, 2nd year with Saints and as NFL head coach (11-7)

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/ GENERAL MANAGER:
Mickey Loomis

VICE PRESIDENT OF PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Rick Mueller

VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION:
Russ Ball

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Doug Marrone	Offensive coordinator/line	6	2
Pete Carmichael Jr.	QBs/passing game	8	2
George Henshaw	@Running backs	20	2
Curtis Johnson	Receivers	2	2
Terry Malone	Tight ends	2	2
John Morton	Off. assistant/passing game	9	2
Joe Lombardi	Offensive assistant	2	1
Gary Gibbs	Defensive coordinator	6	2
Marion Hobby	Defensive line	2	2
Dennis Allen	Asst. defensive line	6	2
Joe Vitt	*Linebackers	29	2
Tom Hayes	Secondary	2	2
Tony Oden	Def. assistant/secondary	4	2
John Bonamego	Special teams coordinator	9	2
Greg McMahon	Special teams asst.	2	2
Dan Dalrymple	Strength & Conditioning	2	2
Adam Bailey	Strength & Conditioning	3	3

*Assistant head coach @Senior assistant

Payton's Place is Bursting with Optimism

When they started the 2006 regular season, just 12 days after the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, no one could have known that the New Orleans Saints would bring so much joy and happiness to a wounded city and region.

Just having the team back was a major victory for their loyal fans, who heralded the Saints' return to the refurbished Superdome by selling out the stadium on a season basis for the first time in the franchise's 40-year history.

What their beloved Saints did on the field, however, was the elixir that helped fans forget their myriad problems — if only for one day a week for five months.

But what a five-month period it was. Every Sunday was like Mardi Gras, especially when the Saints won — something they did more often than not for the first time since 2002 in going 10-6 and winning the NFC South title.

First-year coach Sean Payton and the new-look Saints earned a playoff bye, hosted a divisional playoff game and advanced to the NFC Championship game — all firsts for the organization.

The rebuilt team, which had 26 new faces on it for the regular-season opener thanks to an extensive remodeling job by Payton, fed off its frenzied fans all year long. The Saints returned the favor by giving the fans something to be happy about as they put their lives, homes and businesses back together.

"I think the city is very committed to this team and it's really an amazing fan base we have, not just in New Orleans, but in this whole Gulf South area," said Payton.

Obviously, the expectations will be greater this year. The Saints return every player that started in the NFC title game, although some spirited competition will be expected for a few spots on defense.

"You have to establish a foundation and we've been able to do that," Payton said. "There's a mix in that locker room that fit well. They've put the team first, every one of them."

COACHING

Payton was the NFL's consensus Coach of the Year, and with good reason.

He accepted the daunting task of taking over a 3-13 team that had to play all of its games away from home in 2005, then rebuilt the team from the ground up and guided it into the NFC title game.

Along the way, Payton pushed all the right buttons — especially on offense where he called the plays — after molding his new team into a tough, but disciplined, cohesive unit.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

The Saints couldn't have asked for anything more out of Drew Brees, who came back from

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
CB Jason David

The Saints filled their top off-season priority by signing David, a three-year starter in Indianapolis, away from the Colts. He'll likely be penciled into the lineup after Fred Thomas gave up some big pass plays last year.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
CB Jason David, LB Troy Evans, P Chris Hanson, TE Eric Johnson, S Kevin Kaesviharn, K Olindo Mare, WR David Patten, LB Brian Simmons

KEY LOSS:
WR Joe Horn (10/9)*
Nagging hamstring and groin injuries the last two seasons led to Horn's demise. Even though he was the team's most productive player from 2000-04, his age (35), injuries and $4.45 million salary made him expendable.

OTHER LOSSES
LB James Allen (0/0), P Mitch Berger (0/0), K John Carney (16/0), LB Danny Clark (16/0), TE Ernie Conwell (7/5), K Billy Cundiff (5/0), CB Curtis Deloatch (7/0), G Montrae Holland (8/0), RB Fred McAfee (4/0), LB Terrence Melton (16/0), LB Tommy Polley (0/0), S Bryan Scott (9/0), G Chad Setterstrom (0/0), S Omar Stoutmire (13/9)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 10 offense, 10 defense, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

a torn labrum in his throwing shoulder to earn All-Pro honors after leading the NFL in passing yards. Brees quickly became the unquestioned team leader and was the lynchpin for an offense that led the NFL in total yards and passing yards.

He set team records for passing yards (4,418), completions (356), completion percentage (64.3) and passer rating (96.2) and threw 26 touchdown passes — one shy of the club standard. If that wasn't enough, Brees also led the league with 61 completions of 20 yards or more.

The Saints had only one other quarterback, 37-year-old Jamie Martin, on the roster most of last year. But Payton would like to develop a young one for the future, perhaps undrafted free agent Tyler Palko.

RATING: 9

RUNNING BACKS

Like Brees, Deuce McAllister successfully came back from a major injury after missing the final 11 games in 2005 with a torn right ACL. One of the team's most dedicated players got his knee back in shape during a grueling training camp and rushed for 1,057 yards and a 4.3 average with 10 touchdowns while sharing the workload with Reggie Bush.

McAllister and Bush will likely be used the same way this season after they formed a potent 1-2 punch. Bush was an exciting and productive component for the NFL's top-ranked offense with 565 rushing yards, an NFL-rookie record 88 receptions for 742 yards and eight offensive touchdowns.

Aaron Stecker was a solid third back although rookie Antonio Pittman will get a chance at that spot as well. Mike Karney earned second-team All-Pro honors for his blocking skills in opening holes for McAllister and Bush.

RATING: 9

RECEIVERS

Marques Colston, who went from an unknown seventh-round draft pick to earning a spot on the All-Rookie team after catching 70 passes for 1,038 yards and eight touchdowns, will get to see what he can do for an encore as the team's featured receiver this season following the release of Joe Horn.

Colston put up those big numbers despite missing two games and most of a third with a sprained ankle, so the Saints are eager to see what he'll do with a year and an off-season under his belt.

The speedy Devery Henderson led the NFL with an average of 23.3 yards a catch and Terrance Copper was a solid acquisition as well. The Saints added even more speed to the lineup in taking Tennessee wideout Robert Meachem in the first round of the draft.

Tight end Mark Campbell excelled as a blocker and receiver and Billy Miller came up big late in the season and the playoffs. They'll be joined this season by former San Francisco 49ers tight end Eric Johnson.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This area might have been the biggest surprise of a surprising season even though it was the biggest question mark going into training camp.

The entire unit returns intact after the five starters missed only one game because of injury. Second-year pro Jammal Brown successfully made the switch from right tackle to the left side and earned All-Pro honors.

Brown was joined by left guard Jamar Nesbit, center Jeff Faine, right guard Jahri Evans and right tackle Jon Stinchcomb, forming a unit that allowed just 18 sacks in 15 games before a meaningless regular-season finale. They were also solid in the running game as well.

Jonathan Goodwin provides depth at center and guard and the Saints used a third-round draft pick on Akron's Andy Alleman to further bolster the unit.

RATING: 8

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

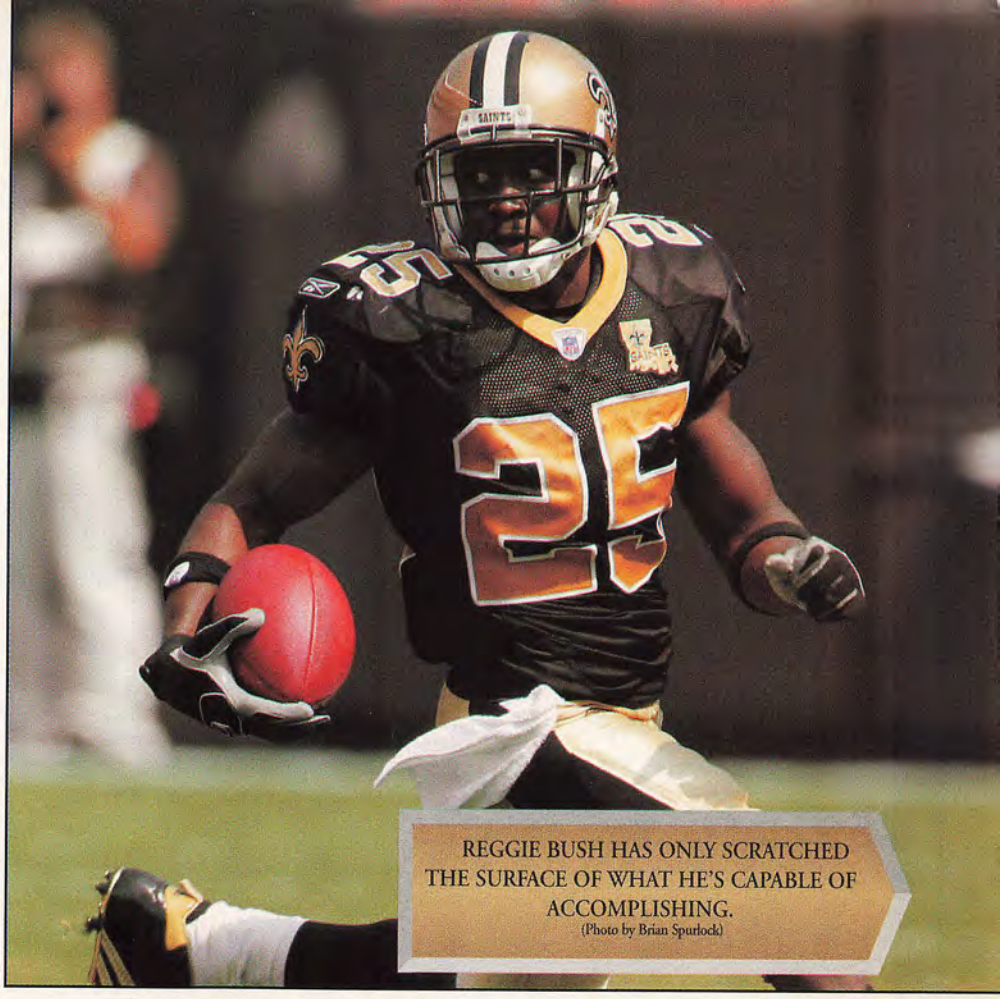
The Saints are pretty solid here, especially on the outside where Pro Bowl pick Will Smith and Charles Grant give the team a formidable pair of aggressive pass rushers.

Smith recorded a career-high and club-leading 10.5 sacks, while anchoring the line from the right side. Grant, who was franchised and eventually signed a seven-year contract worth $63 million, added six from the left side.

Brian Young and Hollis Thomas work the inside, with Thomas giving the defense a quality run-stopper and plugger in the middle, even though the Saints allowed 128.9 yards a game.

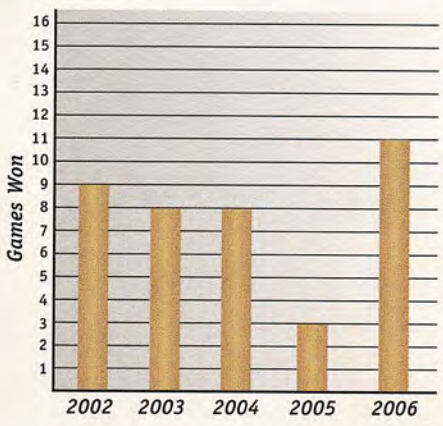
Top reserves include end Rob Ninkovich and tackles Antwan Lake, Rodney Leisle and Willie Whitehead.

RATING: 8



REGGIE BUSH HAS ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF ACCOMPLISHING.
(Photo by Brian Spurlock)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2006*

Saints Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
80	**Campbell, Mark (TE)**	**6-6**	**260**	**9**	**Michigan**	**14/10**	**FA 06**	**OFA CLV 99**	**Steady veteran started 10 games and was solid as a receiver and blocker.**
12	**Colston, Marques**	**6-4**	**231**	**2**	**Hofstra**	**14/12**	**D7 06**	**D7 NO 06**	**Seventh-round steal produced with 70 catches, 1,038 yards and eight touchdowns.**
18	Copper, Terrance	6-0	207	4	East Carolina	15/4	W,DALL 06	OFA DALL 04	Was claimed off waivers and filled in admirably when Joe Horn was hurt.
19	**Henderson, Devery**	**5-11**	**200**	**4**	**Louisiana State**	**13/7**	**D2 04**	**D2 NO 04**	**Improving player stretched defenses and led NFL with 23.3 yards a catch.**
82	Johnson, Eric (TE)	6-3	252	7	Yale	13/9	UFA,SF 07	D7 SF 01	Dependable receiver will see lots of action in two-tight end sets.
87	Johnson, Robert (TE)	6-6	278	4	Auburn	0/0	FA 07	OFA ATL 03	Mammoth player trying to make return after sitting out '06 season.
89	Jones, Jamal	5-11	205	2	North Carolina A&T	12/1	FA 06	OFA STL 04	Former free agent made team and contributed on special teams.
84	Lewis, Michael (KR)	5-8	173	7	None	10/0	FA 01	OFA PHA 00	Returned from ACL injury at mid-season and again excelled on kickoff returns.
85	Meachem, Robert	6-2	214	R	Tennessee	0/0	D1 07	D1 NO 07	Top draft pick brings more top-end speed to an already-speedy group.
83	Miller, Billy (TE)	6-3	252	8	Southern Cal	10/3	FA 06	D7 DEN 99	Veteran was re-signed because of injuries and was solid in playoffs.
16	Moore, Lance	5-9	177	2	Toledo	4/0	FA 07	OFA CLV 05	Youngster surprised in pre-season, but wound up on the practice squad.
86	Owens, John (TE)	6-3	255	5	Notre Dame	5/0	FA 06	D5 DET 02	Another mid-season acquisition who helped out, mainly as a blocker.
81	Patten, David	5-10	190	11	Western Carolina	5/0	FA 07	OFA NYG 97	Veteran receiver trying to bounce back from two injury-riddled seasons.
88	Ridgeway, Dante	6-1	200	2	Ball State	0/0	FA 07	D6 STL 05	Will get a look in camp after spending 2006 on practice squad.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
65	Alleman, Andy (G)	6-4	302	R	Akron	0/0	D3 07	D3 NO 07	Highly-regarded draft pick will get a chance to earn backup spot.
60	Archibald, Ben (T)	6-3	320	2	Brigham Young	0/0	FA 07	OFA SF 03	Former practice squad player gets another opportunity to make roster.
70	**Brown, Jammal (T)**	**6-6**	**313**	**3**	**Oklahoma**	**15/15**	**D1 05**	**D1 NO 05**	**Made a seamless switch from right side to left and earned All-Pro honors.**
74	Bushrod, Jermon (T)	6-5	315	R	Towson	0/0	D4 07	D4 NO 07	Huge player was steady four-year starter at left tackle for Towson.
73	**Evans, Jahri (G)**	**6-4**	**318**	**2**	**Bloomsburg State**	**16/16**	**D4 06**	**D4 NO 06**	**Rookie joined starting lineup early in training camp and never came out.**
52	**Faine, Jeff (C)**	**6-3**	**291**	**5**	**Notre Dame**	**16/16**	**T,CLV 06**	**D1 CLV 03**	**Shook off past injury problems and was a stalwart in anchoring line.**
76	Goodwin, Jonathan (C/G)	6-3	318	6	Michigan	16/0	UFA,NYJ 06	D5 NYJ 02	Capable backup who can play several positions along the line.
67	**Nesbit, Jamar (G/T)**	**6-4**	**328**	**9**	**South Carolina**	**16/16**	**UFA,JAX 04**	**OFA CARO 99**	**Took advantage of opportunity to start and was solid at left guard.**
79	Petitti, Rob (T)	6-6	327	3	Pittsburgh	1/0	W,DALL 06	D6 DALL 05	Former starter for Cowboys provides depth at tackle positions.
75	Sims, Wes (G)	6-4	317	2	Oklahoma	0/0	FA 07	D6 SD 05	Will get an opportunity to provide depth at either guard position.
78	**Stinchcomb, Jon (T)**	**6-5**	**315**	**5**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**D2 03**	**D2 NO 03**	**Came back from serious knee injury to win starting job and played well.**
64	Strief, Zach (T)	6-7	349	2	Northwestern	9/1	D7 06	D7 NO 06	Gigantic player who learned the ropes as a rookie in 2006 season.
68	Yovanovits, Dave (G)	6-3	300	4	Temple	0/0	FA 07	D7 NYJ 03	Saw action in six games with Jets and Browns in '04 and '05.
RUNNING BACKS									
35	Branch, Jamaal	5-11	230	1	Colgate	1/0	FA 06	OFA NO 06	Unheralded youngster opened eyes in training camp with hard running.
25	Bush, Reggie	6-0	203	2	Southern Cal	16/7	D1 06	D1 NO 06	Electrifying player created problems for defenses with running, receiving.
40	Dudley, Kevin (FB)	6-0	238	1	Michigan	1/0	FA 07	OFA ATL 05	Will try to make an impression after joining practice squad in 2006.
44	**Karney, Mike (FB)**	**5-11**	**258**	**4**	**Arizona State**	**15/7**	**D5 04**	**D5 NO 04**	**Devastating lead blocker who was a second-team All-Pro pick in '06.**
26	**McAllister, Deuce**	**6-1**	**232**	**7**	**Mississippi**	**15/13**	**D1 01**	**D1 NO 01**	**Determined vet rebounded from knee injury to rush for 1,057 yards, 11 TDs.**
24	Pittman, Antonio	5-11	207	R	Ohio State	0/0	D4 07	D4 NO 07	Tough inside runner was too good to pass up in the fourth round.
27	Stecker, Aaron	5-10	213	8	Western Illinois	12/1	UFA,TB 04	OFA CHI 99	Valuable and versatile player as a runner, receiver, kick returner
QUARTERBACKS									
9	**Brees, Drew**	**6-0**	**209**	**7**	**Purdue**	**16/16**	**UFA,SD 06**	**D2 SD 01**	**Worked his way back from bad shoulder injury to put up All-Pro numbers.**
10	Martin, Jamie	6-2	205	13	Weber State	16/0	UFA,STL 06	OFA RAMS 93	Journeyman has been capable backup everywhere he's been in long career.
3	Palko, Tyler	6-1	215	R	Pittsburgh	0/0	OFA 07	OFA PITT 07	Former Pitt star may get a chance to develop into backup in time.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
97	Cooper, Josh (E)	6-3	265	1	Mississippi	5/1	FA 06	OFA SF 04	Showed quickness off the edge after being signed from practice squad.
94	**Grant, Charles (E)**	**6-3**	**290**	**6**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 NO 02**	**Fast, aggressive defender earned huge contract after a nice season.**
96	Lake, Antwan (T)	6-4	308	5	West Virginia	15/1	W,ATL 06	OFA DET 02	Joined line rotation on the inside after being picked up late in camp.
77	Leisle, Rodney (T)	6-3	315	4	UCLA	14/1	D5 04	D5 NO 05	Finally got to contribute after recovering from injury early in camp.
93	*Ninkovich, Rob (E)	6-2	252	2	Purdue	3/0	D5 06	D5 NO 06	Speedy player had rookie season cut short by ACL injury in Week 3.
91	**Smith, Will (E)**	**6-3**	**282**	**4**	**Ohio State**	**14/14**	**D1 04**	**D1 NO 04**	**Became one of the NFL's top pass rushers with 10.5 sacks in '06.**
99	**Thomas, Hollis (T)**	**6-0**	**306**	**12**	**Northern Illinois**	**12/12**	**T,PHA 06**	**OFA PHA 96**	**Burly run-stopper was a huge upgrade for the middle of the line.**
98	Whitehead, Willie (T)	6-3	300	9	Auburn	12/3	FA 99	OFA SF 95	Savvy vet always ready to help out as part of D-line rotation.
66	**Young, Brian (T)**	**6-2**	**298**	**8**	**Texas-El Paso**	**16/16**	**UFA,STL 04**	**D5 STL 00**	**A relentless defender who has become known for his non-stop motor.**
LINEBACKERS									
54	Evans, Troy (O)	6-3	238	6	Cincinnati	16/0	UFA,HOUS 07	OFA STL 01	Capable backup who made his name on special teams while with Texans.
57	Faulk, Trev (O)	6-3	254	3	Louisiana State	0/0	FA 07	OFA DEN 02	Sat out '06 with back injury, but will vie for a backup spot with Saints.
56	Fincher, Alfred (M)	6-1	238	3	Connecticut	6/0	D3 05	D3 NO 05	Former third-round draft choice hasn't made much of an impact.
55	**Fujita, Scott (O)**	**6-5**	**250**	**6**	**California**	**16/16**	**UFA,DALL 06**	**D5 KC 02**	**Was one of team's top defenders in 2006 with hustle and fiery attitude.**
50	Mitchell, Marvin (O)	6-3	249	R	Tennessee	0/0	D7 07	D7 NO 07	Big linebacker could surprise despite being a seventh-round pick.
58	**Shanle, Scott (O)**	**6-2**	**245**	**5**	**Nebraska**	**16/15**	**T,DALL 06**	**D7 STL 03**	**Joined Saints in preseason trade and was a solid 15-game starter.**
51	**Simmons, Brian (M)**	**6-3**	**244**	**10**	**North Carolina**	**11/8**	**FA 07**	**D1 CIN 98**	**Former Bengals star will battle for a starting job in the middle.**
53	Simoneau, Mark (O)	6-0	245	8	Kansas State	16/14	T,PHA 06	D3 ATL 00	Steady, seasoned player filled a hole in the defense last season.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
20	Bellamy, Jay (S)	5-11	200	14	Rutgers	11/3	FA 06	OFA SEA 94	Wily veteran capably stepped in when injuries wrecked safety spot.
29	**Bullocks, Josh (S)**	**6-1**	**207**	**3**	**Nebraska**	**16/16**	**D2 05**	**D2 NO 05**	**Fast youngster has already started 29 games in back end of secondary.**
21	Craft, Jason (CB)	5-10	187	9	Colorado State	16/5	T,JAX 04	D5 JAX 99	Veteran player has been used mostly in the nickel and dime packages.
42	**David, Jason (CB)**	**5-8**	**180**	**4**	**Washington State**	**16/16**	**RFA,IND 07**	**D4 IND 04**	**Three-year starter for the Colts brings solid ball skills to Saints.**
37	Gleason, Steve (S)	5-11	212	7	Washington State	15/0	FA 01	OFA IND 00	Fearless special teams player specializes in blocked kicks, big hits.
28	Groce, DeJuan (CB)	5-10	192	5	Nebraska	12/0	W,STL 06	D4 STL 03	Played mostly on special teams last season, but can fill in when needed.
41	***Harper, Roman (S)**	**6-1**	**200**	**2**	**Alabama**	**5/5**	**D2 06**	**D2 NO 06**	**Impressive as a rookie until going down with an ACL injury in Week 5.**
30	Jones, David (CB)	6-0	196	R	Wingate	0/0	D5 07	D5 NO 07	Little-known small college player will get a shot to make it in the bigs.
43	Kaesviharn, Kevin (S)	6-1	196	7	Augustana (S.D.)	14/7	UFA,CIN 07	FA GB 01	Had a knack for making big plays during six seasons with Bengals.
34	**McKenzie, Mike (CB)**	**6-0**	**194**	**9**	**Memphis**	**16/16**	**T,GB 04**	**D3 GB 99**	**Saints top cover cornerback had a good all-around season in '06.**
22	Thomas, Fred (CB)	5-9	185	12	Tennessee-Martin	13/13	UFA,SEA 00	D2 SEA 96	Skillful cover man struggled in giving up some big plays last season.
38	Young, Usama (CB)	6-0	194	R	Kent State	0/0	D3 07	D3 NO 07	Saints are hoping that wiry defender was a find from Kent State.
SPECIALISTS									
6	Hanson, Chris (P)	6-2	202	7	Marshall	16/0	FA 07	OFA CLV 99	Veteran punter who has never had a kick blocked in 428 career attempts.
47	Houser, Kevin (LS)	6-2	252	7	Ohio State	16/0	D7 00	D7 NO 00	Dependable player has become one of the top long snappers around.
2	Mare, Olindo (K)	5-11	190	11	Syracuse	16/0	T,MIA 07	OFA NYG 96	Accurate field-goal kicker will give the Saints more leg on kickoffs.
7	Weatherford, Steve (P)	6-3	215	2	Illinois	16/0	FA 06	OFA NO 06	Undrafted free agent averaged 43.8 yards per punt as a rookie.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; TFA=Transition free agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Rhema McKnight (Notre Dame); TE Calen Powell (1, Duke); OTs Peter Dyakowski (Louisiana State), Walter Thomas (NW Mississippi CC); OG Jake Kuresa (Brigham Young); QBs Jason Fife (1, Oregon), Tyler Palko (Pittsburgh); RBs Keith Greer (Idaho), Pierre Thomas (Illinois); DEs Willie Evans (1, Mississippi State), Jonathan Hamm (Clark); DTs McKinley Boykin (1, Mississippi), Brandon Villarreal (1, Purdue); LB Wade Koehl (Houston); CBs Anwar Phillips (1, Penn State), Joe Porter (Rutgers); DB Chris Reis (1, Georgia Tech); LS Patrick MacDonald (Alberta Univ.); PK Brett Bergstrom (Eastern Washington)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Sean Payton's offense to lead the NFL in total yards for the second straight year. Why not? Led by All-Pro quarterback Drew Brees, this loaded unit will only get better with another year under its belt — benefiting, of course, from Payton's imaginative play-calling.

*The defense to do a much better job stopping the run. They allowed 128.9 yards a game last year as eight individuals rushed for 100 yards. They know that won't cut it this time around, so it'll be a point of emphasis in training camp.

*The Saints to take the next step and reach Super Bowl XLII. They got a taste of the good life in reaching the NFC title game last year and there's no reason to believe they won't threaten once again in a wide-open conference.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Devery Henderson

Some may wonder how a receiver with blazing speed who averaged an NFL-best 23.3 yards per reception and 48.2 yards on five touchdown catches one year found himself on the hot seat the next.

It's easy. Henderson, a four-year veteran, dazzled fans with his raw speed and long receptions in 2006 in seeing extensive playing time for the first time in his career.

But while he had 10 receptions of 35 yards or more in setting career highs in catches (32) and yards (745), the former Louisiana State star and 2004 second-round draft pick was inconsistent because of drops.

With Joe Horn moving on, Henderson will be asked to make an even bigger contribution this season. His sprinter's speed will create mismatches with defenses and make second-year pro Marques Colston and top draft pick Robert Meachem more effective.

Henderson tantalized Saints' fans in giving them a glimpse of his potential with three 100-yard games in a four-week span last season. He piled up 111, 169 and 158 yards and averaged 27.4 yards a catch in that stretch.

How much he improves over the off-season, however, will be a key in determining if he gets a chance to expand on his breakout year.

LINEBACKERS

Much like the offensive line, the Saints linebackers were a group in transition when the 2006 season started.

But free-agent pickup Scott Fujita quickly blended in with Scott Shanle and Mark Simoneau, who were obtained in trades late in training camp, to give the Saints a solid set of linebackers. Fujita and Shanle quickly became playmakers on the outside, while Simoneau was steady in the middle.

Former Cincinnati Bengals starter Brian Simmons will join the mix and challenge Simoneau for a starting job, while newcomers Troy Evans and Trev Faulk hope to add depth while contributing on special teams.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

The Saints will likely have some top-notch competition in the secondary as cornerback Jason David and safety Kevin Kaesviharn joined the mix through free agency.

David, a three-year starter for the Indianapolis Colts, will make a bid to start opposite Mike McKenzie, who had a nice season in 2006. Kaesviharn, who comes over from Cincinnati, will be vying to unseat either free safety Josh Bullocks or strong safety Roman Harper, a promising youngster who is returning for a torn ACL.

Cornerbacks Fred Thomas and Jason Craft will likely vie for playing time in the nickel and dime, with third-round draft pick Usama Young trying to earn a roster spot as well.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Seeking a stronger kicking leg for kickoffs and longer field goals, the Saints traded for former Miami Dolphins kicker Olindo Mare and released 43-year-old John Carney, whose forte was accuracy.

Mare had a league-high 24 touchbacks in 2006, seven more than the next kicker and his career accuracy on field goals (81 percent) is comparable to Carney's.

Punter Steve Weatherford, an undrafted free agent, averaged 43.8 yards a punt, but he will be challenged by newcomer Chris Hanson. Kevin Houser is one of the top long snappers. Michael Lewis and Reggie Bush handled the kickoff and punt return duties a year ago.

RATING: 7.5

INTANGIBLES

Payton set the tone for the 2006 season with a brutal boot, er, training camp in Jackson, Miss. He put his team through two practices a day for nearly the entire 4 1/2-week stay, but many players credited that camp with building the mental toughness that helped them reach the NFC title game.

RATING: Plus 1

— Sheldon Mickles

2006 RESULTS

Record: 11-7

Sep. 10	at Cleveland	19-14
Sep. 17	at Green Bay	34-27
Sep. 25	ATLANTA	23-3
Oct. 1	at Carolina	18-21
Oct. 8	TAMPA BAY	24-21
Oct. 15	PHILADELPHIA	27-24
Oct. 22	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	BALTIMORE	22-35
Nov. 5	at Tampa Bay	31-14
Nov. 12	at Pittsburgh	31-38
Nov. 19	CINCINNATI	16-31
Nov. 26	at Atlanta	31-13
Dec. 3	SAN FRANCISCO	34-10
Dec. 10	at Dallas	42-17
Dec. 17	WASHINGTON	10-16
Dec. 24	at N.Y. Giants	30-7
Dec. 31	CAROLINA	21-31
Jan. 13	PHILADELPHIA	27-24
Jan. 21	at CHICAGO	14-39

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 5	Pittsburgh, Canton (Sun.)	8:00
Aug. 10	BUFFALO (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 18	at Cincinnati (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 23	at Kansas City (Thu.)	7:30
Aug. 30	MIAMI (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 6	at Indianapolis (Thu.)	8:30
Sep. 16	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Sep. 24	TENNESSEE (Mon.)	7:30
Sep. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	CAROLINA	12:00
Oct. 14	at Seattle	5:15
Oct. 21	ATLANTA	12:00
Oct. 28	at San Francisco	1:15
Nov. 4	JACKSONVILLE	12:00
Nov. 11	ST. LOUIS	12:00
Nov. 18	at Houston	12:00
Nov. 25	at Carolina	1:00
Dec. 2	TAMPA BAY	12:00
Dec. 10	at Atlanta (Mon.)	8:30
Dec. 16	ARIZONA	12:00
Dec. 23	PHILADELPHIA	12:00
Dec. 30	at Chicago	12:00

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

2006 RECORD: 4-12 | STADIUM: Raymond James Stadium, 65,657, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 3rd

NFC SOUTH | www.buccaneers.com

AT A GLANCE

One Buccaneer Place
Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 870-2700

TRAINING CAMP:
Disney Wide World of Sports, Orlando, FL

COACH:
Jon Gruden, 6th year with Buccaneers (42-42), 10th year as NFL head coach (82-70)

GENERAL MANAGER:
Bruce Allen

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Mark Arteaga

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Dennis Hickey

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Mark Dominik

PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:
Doug Williams

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Aaron Kromer	Sr. asst./offensive line	7	3
Bill Muir	Offensive coordinator/ Offensive line	30	6
Paul Hackett	Quarterbacks	20	3
Art Valero	*Running backs	6	6
Richard Mann	Receivers	26	6
Bob Casullo	Tight ends	8	1
Jay Gruden	Offensive assistant	6	6
Nathaniel Hackett	Offensive quality control	2	2
Tim Berbenich	Offensive quality control	6	2
Monte Kiffin	Defensive coordinator	25	12
Larry Coyer	*Defensive line	9	1
Casey Bradley	Linebackers	2	2
Raheem Morris	Secondary	5	5
Jimmy Lake	Assistant secondary	2	2
Todd Wash	Defensive quality control	1	1
Richard Bisaccia	Special teams coord.	6	6
Mike Morris	Strength & Conditioning	9	6
Kurtis Shultz	Strength & Conditioning	5	2

*Assistant head coach

Gruden Tries to Steer Bucs Ship Back on Course

Tampa Bay fell to the bottom of its division last season, the second time in three seasons the Bucs have been the worst team in the NFC South.

There was a lot of finger pointing and blame to go around for the inconsistent effort on the football field. A rash of injuries and a not so inspired performance by the usually dominant defense led to the franchise's worst record since 1991.

A once dependable defense began showing signs of age, while the offense failed to click with three different quarterbacks, including a rookie, at the helm.

A busy off-season featuring a flurry of free-agent signings and a defensive player heavy draft will attempt to plug holes in this leaking ship that has sailed severely off course.

COACHING

Jon Gruden returns for his sixth season as the Bucs head coach and the pressure is on to prove he can lead this team back to the post-season on a consistent basis.

Defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin is still bouncing off the walls from the April draft when the Bucs used seven of their 10 picks on defensive players. Kiffin's defense had been neglected for too long and that neglect, mostly a lack of depth, became painfully apparent last year.

Larry Coyer, let go as the defensive coordinator by the Denver Broncos, takes over defensive line duties from Jethro Franklin, who was fired after only one season. Defensive backs coach Greg Burns was also fired after a one-year stint and replaced by Raheem Morris, the Bucs former assistant defensive backs coach who left to become the Kansas State defensive coordinator a year ago. Casey Bradley was promoted to linebackers coach after Joe Barry left to become the Detroit Lions defensive coordinator.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

Chris Simms lost his spleen last season and could very well lose his starting job. Simms ruptured his spleen in Week 3 against the Carolina Panthers, an injury that required emergency surgery and ended Simms' season.

Simms is back to full strength and set for a battle with veteran Jeff Garcia, a key free-agent pickup for the Bucs. Garcia took a backseat to Simms in the off-season while he learned Gruden's complex system, but should begin getting more work with the first team as the season approaches.

The wild card of the bunch remains Jake Plummer. Denver traded Plummer to Tampa Bay, but the 11-year veteran has vowed to retire instead of playing for the Bucs. Gruden has tried to remain in contact with Plummer in hopes of convincing him to reconsider. The Tampa Bay coach joked he'd grow his hair long and a beard, in homage to Plummer, until the two talked.

RATING: 6

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
QB Jeff Garcia

The journeyman quarterback finally landed in Tampa after years of flirting with playing for Gruden. He's here to start and continue the winning form he rediscovered in Philadelphia.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
FB B.J. Askew, WR David Boston, DE Kevin Carter, DE Patrick Chukwurah, CB Sammy Davis, LB Cato June, G Matt Lehr, T Luke Petitgout, DT Ryan Sims, TE Jerramy Stevens

KEY LOSS:
LB Shelton Quarles (12/12)*
Quarles was the perfect middleman for the Bucs' scheme because of his ability to drop back in coverage. His loss will be felt on the field and in the locker room.

OTHER LOSSES
CB Blue Adams (16/0), CB Juran Bolden (16/11), T Cornell Green (14/0), TE Doug Jolley (11/0), G Sean Mahan (16/12), LB Wesly Mallard (16/0), LS Dave Moore (13/0), QB Tim Rattay (4/2), FB Jerald Sowell (11/0), T Kenyatta Walker (3/3), DE Dewayne White (16/8)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 10 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

RUNNING BACKS

Injury prone. That was the knock on Cadillac Williams coming out of Auburn and so far in his two NFL seasons, Williams hasn't done much to shake that off. A foot injury put a damper on an otherwise stellar Rookie of the Year campaign, while back issues nagged him last year. Williams suffered behind an inadequate line, so hopefully the upgrades they've made there will help him recapture his rookie form.

Michael Pittman remains a reliable backup and versatile back, who is more adept at catching the ball out the backfield than Williams. Six-time Pro Bowl fullback Mike Alstott returns for yet another year, though his touches have dramatically dwindled over the seasons.

Fifth-year veteran B.J. Askew provides the Bucs with a legitimate blocking fullback and can help open up some holes for Williams.

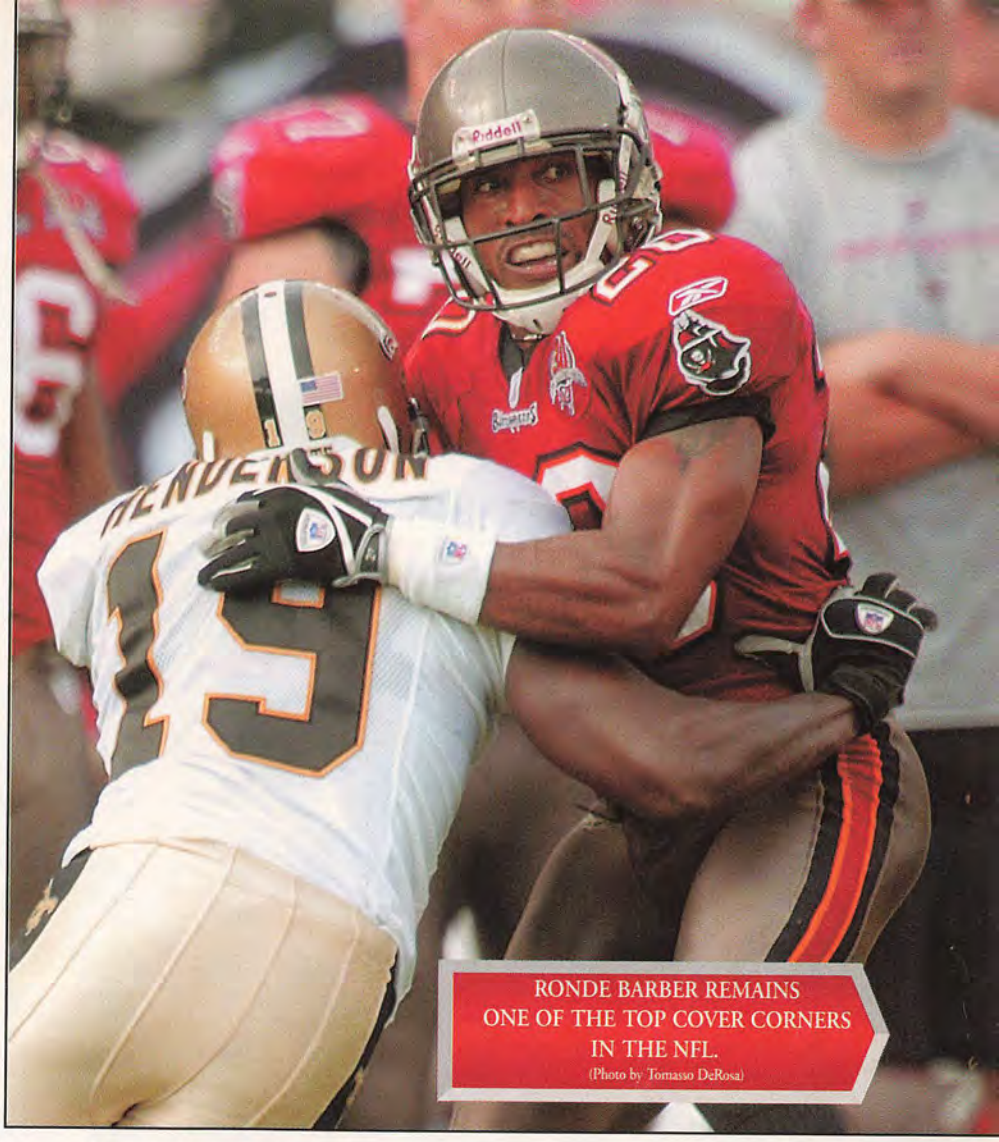
RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

Joey Galloway could have followed up a solid 2005 campaign with another one last year had the quarterback situation not been so shaky. The 13-year veteran remains the Bucs' No. 1 receiver as Michael Clayton's stock continues to drop. Back-to-back disappointing seasons from Clayton have many questioning whether he can return to his productive rookie ways or will end up a bust.

David Boston returned earlier this year for another attempt at making the roster. Tampa Bay released Boston before the start of the regular season last year because he hadn't fully recovered from a knee injury. A full year off to get healthy may just be what Boston needed.

If the Bucs get their quarterback situation settled, tight end Alex Smith could factor heavily into the passing game. Former Seattle Seahawks tight end Jerramy Stevens, if he rehabilitates his bad-boy image, would be a weapon for Gruden to utilize.



RONDE BARBER REMAINS ONE OF THE TOP COVER CORNERS IN THE NFL.
(Photo by Tomasso DeRosa)

This could limit Anthony Becht's playing time.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A year after addressing the right side of the line with guard Davin Joseph and tackle Jeremy Trueblood, the Bucs addressed the left side.

They signed former Giants left tackle Luke Petitgout and drafted former Tennessee guard/tackle Arron Sears. Sears likely will take over the left guard job from Dan Buenning, who will battle with John Wade for the starting center position.

For years, this unit has been the weak link of the team, but through free agency and the draft, the Bucs have created legitimate competition and finally have real depth.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This group's lack of consistent pressure last year led to many of the defense's problems and also led to the team using the fourth-overall pick on Clemson defensive end Gaines Adams.

Adams will battle with veteran Simeon Rice for starting time on the right side. Rice, the Bucs' leader in sacks five of the past six seasons, is coming off season-ending shoulder surgery. The left end belongs to Greg Spires, while free-agent acquisition Kevin Carter adds some versatility.

Carter, mostly used as an end in recent seasons, can also line up at under tackle. Last year's starter, Ellis Wyms, was bothered for most of the season with an ankle injury and will have competition to keep the starting spot vacated by Anthony McFarland, who was traded to Indianapolis in the middle of last season. Chris Hovan returns at nose tackle where he has helped the rush defense.

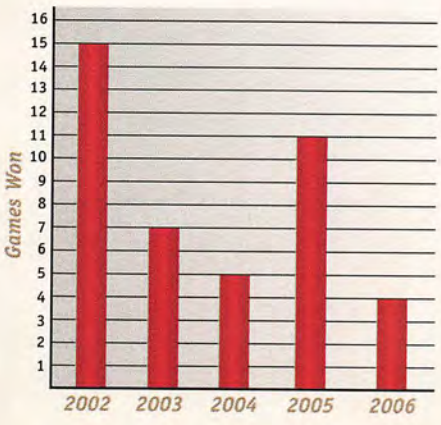
RATING: 7

LINEBACKERS

Veteran middle linebacker Shelton Quarles is gone and third-year player Barrett Ruud takes his place. Ruud started a couple of games for Quarles last season and held his own, but needs to work on being able to drop back in coverage like Quarles, to be successful in Kiffin's scheme.

Cato June, a free-agent pickup from Indianapolis, takes over the strong-side position from Ryan Nece, who has started there three of the past four seasons. Ten-time Pro Bowler Derrick Brooks remains the mainstay on the weak side. Another free-agent acquisition, Patrick Chukwurah, might be utilized as

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2002, 2005*

Buccaneers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
88	Becht, Anthony (TE)	6-5	272	8	West Virginia	16/16	UFA,NYJ 05	D1 NYJ 00	The emergence of Stevens could limit his playing time.
11	Boston, David	6-2	228	8	Ohio State	0/0	FA 07	D1 ARIZ 99	Out of football for nearly two years, this is his last chance at a comeback.
80	***Clayton, Michael**	**6-4**	**215**	**4**	**Louisiana State**	**12/9**	**D1 04**	**D1 TB 04**	**Dropped balls have become a problem for this once promising receiver.**
84	**Galloway, Joey**	**5-11**	**197**	**13**	**Ohio State**	**16/14**	**T,DALL 04**	**D1 SEA 95**	**Still manages to amaze opponents with speed, despite his age.**
87	Heinrich, Keith (TE)	6-5	250	5	Sam Houston State	0/0	FA 07	D6 CARO 02	Has some skill, but faces uphill climb to make the roster.
19	Hilliard, Ike	5-11	210	11	Florida	16/0	FA 05	D1 NYG 97	Reliable on third downs, but doesn't expect to get on field too often.
89	Jones, Mark	5-9	185	4	Tennessee	7/0	FA 06	D7 TB 04	Mainly used as a return man, but did see some receiver action last season.
17	Owens, Chad (KR)	5-7	188	2	Hawaii	4/0	FA 07	D6 JAX 05	Too small to be used as a receiver, will be a return specialist.
81	**Smith, Alex (TE)**	**6-4**	**258**	**3**	**Stanford**	**14/7**	**D3 05**	**D3 TB 05**	**With a revamped offensive line, Smith can finally show off his receiving skills.**
86	Stevens, Jerramy (TE)	6-7	260	6	Washington	11/6	UFA,SEA 07	D1 SEA 02	Looking to rehabilitate image on and off the football field.
85	Stovall, Maurice	6-5	220	2	Notre Dame	9/2	D3 06	D3 TB 06	With a good training camp, could develop into the team's No. 3 receiver.
82	Warren, Paris	6-0	213	2	Utah	8/0	FA 06	D7 TB 05	Needs to showcase more in practice to earn playing time in games.
45	*Williams, T.J. (TE)	6-2	258	2	North Carolina State	0/0	D6 06	D6 TB 06	Promising tight end who is coming off Achilles injury.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
72	***Buenning, Dan (C/G)**	**6-4**	**320**	**3**	**Wisconsin**	**9/7**	**D4 05**	**D4 TB 05**	**Coming off knee surgery; will beef up the center position.**
61	*Colmer, Chris (T)	6-5	310	2	North Carolina State	0/0	D3 05	D3 TB 05	Health issues have forced him to the sideline the past two seasons.
69	Davis, Anthony (T)	6-4	322	4	Virginia Tech	16/16	FA 03	OFA TB 03	Becomes expendable with the presence of Petitgout.
64	Denman, Chris (T)	6-7	315	R	Fresno State	0/0	D7 07	D7 TB 07	Versatile lineman who will concentrate on the right tackle position at first.
75	**Joseph, Davin (G)**	**6-3**	**313**	**2**	**Oklahoma**	**13/12**	**D1 06**	**D1 TB 06**	**Along with Trueblood, should open up big holes on the right side for Cadillac.**
73	Lehr, Matt (G)	6-2	304	7	Virginia Tech	11/11	FA 07	D5 DALL 01	Reliable center who will be part of the team's hottest position battle.
66	Mihlhauser, Nick (C)	6-3	305	1	Washington State	0/0	FA 06	OFA SD 06	Involved in three-way battle for starting center job.
70	Penn, Donald (T)	6-5	305	2	Utah State	0/0	FA 06	OFA MINN 06	Hoping to shake off foot injury that bothered him last year.
79	***Petitgout, Luke (T)**	**6-6**	**310**	**9**	**Notre Dame**	**9/9**	**FA 07**	**D1 NYG 99**	**Anchor on the left side, which will be important if Garcia starts.**
78	**Sears, Arron (G)**	**6-3**	**319**	**R**	**Tennessee**	**0/0**	**D2 07**	**D2 TB 07**	**Big, physical presence at left guard that should help opening holes.**
77	Terry, Jeb (G)	6-5	311	4	North Carolina	10/1	D5 04	D5 TB 04	Versatile backup who can fill in at any guard position.
65	**Trueblood, Jeremy (T)**	**6-8**	**320**	**2**	**Boston College**	**15/13**	**D2 06**	**D2 TB 06**	**Improved with each game last season.**
76	Wade, John (C)	6-5	299	10	Marshall	16/16	UFA,JAX 03	D5 JAX 98	Could lose starting center job with Buenning in the mix.
RUNNING BACKS									
40	**Alstott, Mike (FB)**	**6-1**	**248**	**12**	**Purdue**	**16/15**	**D2 96**	**D2 TB 96**	**Back for one more glory year, will be used sparingly.**
35	Askew, B.J. (FB)	6-3	233	5	Michigan	13/5	UFA,NYJ 07	D3 NYJ 03	Solid blocker who could resurrect the Rhino Backfield.
33	Darby, Kenneth	5-10	211	R	Alabama	0/0	D7 07	D7 TB 07	Coming off bad year, hoping to regain junior year form.
28	Gates, Lionel	6-0	223	2	Louisville	0/0	FA 06	D7 BUFF 05	Late-season roster addition after spending most of last year on practice squad.
34	Graham, Earnest (FB)	5-9	225	4	Florida	16/0	FA 04	OFA TB 03	Dependable player used mainly on special teams.
32	Pittman, Michael	6-0	228	10	Fresno State	16/3	UFA,ARIZ 02	D4 ARIZ 98	Most all-around back on team; big threat catching ball out of the backfield.
24	**Williams, Carnell**	**5-11**	**217**	**3**	**Auburn**	**14/14**	**D1 05**	**D1 TB 05**	**Needs to stay healthy and work on catching the ball better.**
QUARTERBACKS									
7	**Garcia, Jeff**	**6-1**	**205**	**9**	**San Jose State**	**8/6**	**UFA,PHA 07**	**FA SF 99**	**Mobility could be the advantage that lands him the starting job.**
5	Gradkowski, Bruce	6-1	220	2	Toledo	13/11	D6 06	D6 TB 06	Struggled mightily as a rookie; has become forgotten man with addition of Garcia.
12	McCown, Luke	6-3	212	4	Louisiana Tech	0/0	T,CLV 05	D4 CLV 04	Lost in the shuffle after knee surgery robbed him of last season.
16	Plummer, Jake	6-2	212	11	Arizona State	16/11	T,DEN 07	D2 ARIZ 97	Where in the world is Jake will remain the question until camp opens; remains on team's roster.
2	*Simms, Chris	6-4	220	5	Texas	3/3	D3 03	D3 TB 03	Has something to prove after disappointing start to last season.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
90	Adams, Gaines (DE)	6-5	258	R	Clemson	0/0	D1 07	D1 TB 07	Will get the most starting time for a rookie defensive lineman since Warren Sapp.
92	Bennett, Charles (E)	6-3	254	2	Clemson	3/0	FA 06	D7 TB 06	Practice-squad project who got a shot late last season.
60	Campbell, Darrell (T)	6-4	295	1	Notre Dame	0/0	FA 06	OFA CHI 04	Another practice-squad mainstay who will have hard time cracking the regular roster.
93	**Carter, Kevin (T)**	**6-6**	**305**	**13**	**Florida**	**16/16**	**FA 07**	**D1 STL 95**	**Tall presence on the inside that defensive line coach Larry Coyer prefers.**
71	Haye, Jovan (E)	6-2	295	3	Vanderbilt	9/0	FA 06	D6 CARO 05	Filled in at under tackle at times last season out of necessity.
95	**Hovan, Chris (T)**	**6-2**	**296**	**8**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**UFA,MINN 05**	**D1 MINN 00**	**Solid run stopper who could use some help inside.**
91	*Jenkins, Julian	6-3	277	2	Stanford	12/0	D5 06	D5 TB 06	Worked his way into the line rotation last season; looking for more this year.
64	Peterson, Greg (T)	6-5	272	R	North Carolina Central	0/0	D5 07	D5 TB 07	Small college guy trying to perfect the three-technique.
97	***Rice, Simeon (E)**	**6-5**	**268**	**12**	**Illinois**	**8/8**	**UFA,ARZ 01**	**D1 ARIZ 96**	**Coming off shoulder surgery with a rookie looking to take his place.**
98	Sims, Ryan (T)	6-4	315	6	North Carolina	16/0	T,KC 07	D1 KC 02	Project who provides another big presence inside if he can stay healthy.
94	**Spires, Greg (E)**	**6-1**	**265**	**10**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**UFA,CLV 02**	**D3 NE 98**	**Solid on the left side, and he will benefit from bigger presence on the inside.**
96	Wyms, Ellis (T)	6-3	290	7	Mississippi State	13/8	D6 01	D6 TB 01	Staying healthy becoming a problem for this once promising lineman.
LINEBACKERS									
58	Black, Quincy (M)	6-2	240	R	New Mexico	0/0	D3 07	D3 TB 07	Has versatility and skills to develop into solid middle linebacker.
55	**Brooks, Derrick (O)**	**6-0**	**235**	**13**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D2 95**	**D2 TB 95**	**Struggled earlier last season, but then seemed to regain Pro Bowl form.**
52	Cash, Antoine (M)	6-1	223	3	Southern Mississippi	16/0	FA 06	OFA ATL 05	Lone legitimate backup in middle to Ruud.
54	Chukwurah, Patrick (O)	6-1	250	7	Wyoming	14/0	UFA,DEN 07	D5 MINN 01	Outside pass rush threat that could become third-down weapon.
57	Hayward, Adam	6-0	235	R	Portland State	0/0	D6 07	D6 TB 07	Another pass-rush specialist who can also line up at defensive end.
59	**June, Cato (O)**	**6-0**	**227**	**5**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**UFA,IND 07**	**D6 IND 03**	**Arguably best free-agent pickup for a team lacking in depth at this position.**
56	Nece, Ryan (O)	6-3	224	6	UCLA	15/11	OFA 02	OFA TB 02	Will fight to keep starting strong-side job and increase presence on special teams.
51	**Ruud, Barrett (M)**	**6-2**	**241**	**3**	**Nebraska**	**16/5**	**D2 05**	**D2 TB 05**	**Needs to work on getting back in coverage, something his predecessor excelled at.**
50	Winborn, Jamie (O)	5-11	242	6	Vanderbilt	14/0	UFA,JAX 06	D2 SF 01	Itching to get a shot at the weak-side spot Brooks has occupied forever.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
26	**Allen, Will (S)**	**6-1**	**200**	**4**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**D4 04**	**D4 TB 04**	**A back to basics approach should help him get over struggles of last year.**
20	**Barber, Ronde (CB)**	**5-10**	**184**	**11**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**D3 97**	**D3 TB 97**	**Opponents still don't want to throw to his side of the field.**
31	Buchanon, Phillip (CB)	5-11	186	6	Miami	14/4	FA 06	D1 OAK 02	Catching onto the Tampa 2 scheme and should be the nickel back.
27	Cox, Torrie (CB)	5-10	181	5	Pittsburgh	16/3	D6 03	D6 TB 03	Can cover in a pinch, but mostly a special teams guy.
22	*Davis, Sammy (CB)	6-1	195	5	Texas A&M	12/1	FA 07	D1 SD 03	Former first-rounder looking to work his way back onto the field.
29	Hamilton, Marcus (CB)	6-0	192	R	Virginia	0/0	D7 07	D7 TB 07	Trying to follow in fellow Virginia alumnus Barber's footsteps.
36	Jackson, Tanard (S)	6-0	200	R	Syracuse	0/0	D4 07	D4 TB 07	Versatile player who will push Allen for playing time.
25	***Kelly, Brian (CB)**	**5-11**	**193**	**10**	**Southern Cal**	**2/2**	**D2 98**	**D2 TB 98**	**Coming off turf toe surgery; defense isn't the same without him in the game.**
30	Nicholson, Donte (S)	6-1	216	2	Oklahoma	1/0	FA 06	D5 TB 05	Will need an excellent camp to win roster spot, but has a chance.
39	Pearson, Kalvin (CB)	5-10	190	3	Grambling	16/0	FA 05	OFA CLV 02	On the smallish side, but packs a punch when he tackles.
23	**Phillips, Jermaine (S)**	**6-1**	**214**	**6**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**D5 02**	**D5 TB 02**	**Focus on fundamentals might just be the thing he needs to keep his job.**
38	Piscitelli, Sabby (S)	6-3	224	R	Oregon State	0/0	D2 07	D2 TB 07	Hard hitter who brings a nasty presence to the position.
21	*Zemaitis, Alan (CB)	6-2	200	2	Penn State	0/0	D4 06	D4 TB 06	Still wondering when he'll ever get on the field.
SPECIALISTS									
9	Bidwell, Josh (P)	6-3	220	8	Oregon	16/0	UFA,GB 04	D4 GB 99	Took step back after Pro Bowl season, mainly because the offense had so many three-and-outs.
3	Bryant, Matt (K)	5-9	200	5	Baylor	16/0	FA 05	OFA NYG 02	Dismissed critics questioning his leg strength with career-high 62-yard field goal.
48	*Economos, Andrew (LS)	6-1	250	2	Georgia Tech	3/0	FA 06	OFA JAX 06	Takes over snapping duties from veteran Dave Moore, who was not re-signed.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Jovon Bouknight (1, Wyoming), Chas Gessner (1, Brown), Efrem Hill (1, Samford), Chad Lucas (1, Alabama State), Kyle Smith (1, Youngstown State); TE Matt Herian (Nebraska); OT Dennis Roland (Georgia); OG Anthony Wollschlager (Miami); G/C Jonathan Clinkscale (1, Wisconsin); QBs Bruce Eugene (1, Grambling), Zac Taylor (Nebraska); FBs Jon Goldsberry (1, Purdue), Byron Storer (California); DT Justin Frick (North Dakota State); LBs Evan Benjamin (1, Washington), Jerry Mackey (Syracuse), Sam Olajubutu (Arkansas); CBs Carlos Hendricks (1, UAB), Kenny Scott (Georgia Tech), Chaz Williams (Louisiana-Monroe); PK Garrett Rivas (Michigan)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*A tough battle for the starting quarterback job. Chris Simms and Jeff Garcia possess different strengths and each one will try to put his own stamp on the offense.

*Rebirth of the defense. A lot of attention has been paid to that side of the ball, which should show up in more victories. There are a number of players with pass-rush skills that should make opposing quarterbacks uncomfortable.

*The Wild West. Since winning Super Bowl XXXVII in San Diego, the Bucs are 0-4 in West Coast games. They open the season at Seattle and also have a Dec. 23 game at San Francisco.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Jon Gruden

In wrapping up the Bucs' latest draft, coach Jon Gruden made note of how the draft process has become big business and big entertainment. Mostly, he noted, how it seems these days like everyone has an opinion.

"They have an analyst in every locker room. It's really something," Gruden said. "We were rumored to trade all our draft picks up to take an offensive player and we picked a defensive player in each round. That's what some of the analysts have to explain today, just like I had to explain why I went 4-12 last year."

Gruden's had to answer to 4-12 a lot since the Bucs finished dead last in the NFC South, a year after they surprised the division by finishing first.

Last year was Gruden's third losing season in four years since he helped lead Tampa Bay to a Super Bowl title in 2003. Since the Bucs hoisted the Lombardi Trophy, the team has made the post-season only once and Gruden has compiled a 27-37 regular-season record.

Those kinds of numbers are not why the owners gave up so much to Oakland to land Gruden as their coach. Another losing season and they might decide he wasn't worth it.

a third-down pass-rush specialist.

The Bucs added depth at this position in the draft with former New Mexico middle linebacker Quincy Black and Adam Hayward.

RATING: 8

SECONDARY

For the second time in four years, Brian Kelly's value to the defense became apparent when injury forced him to the sideline. Kelly had season-ending turf-toe surgery.

Ronde Barber continued to play at a high level, but without Kelly on the field for most of the season, Kiffin was unable to use Barber in the creative manner that usually results in big plays. Phillip Buchanon will take over nickel back duties from Juran Bolden, who was cut by the team. Buchanon may also fill in on the left side if Kelly's contract status becomes a bigger issue.

Safeties Will Allen and Jermaine Phillips seemingly regressed and received the brunt of criticism for the defense's lack of dominance last year. Morris plans to focus on fundamentals to return these two to their promising forms.

And if they don't, Allen and Phillips will have some young additions pushing them for playing time. Draft picks Sabby Piscitelli and Tanard Jackson have the speed and tackling skills to work their way into the defense immediately.

RATING: 6

SPECIAL TEAMS

Gruden wants one player to return both punts and kickoffs. The Bucs have tried a handful of players at the various positions over the years with no one really claiming the job. Mark Jones, last season's punt returner, will battle with Chad Owens for that specialized job.

Kicker Matt Bryant was the team's MVP last season, especially when he nailed a career-high 62-yard field goal in the Bucs' victory over Philadelphia. The mayor of Tampa honored Bryant with his own day for his effort. This season, Bryant hopes to be kicking more extra points than field goals.

Punter Josh Bidwell is back for his third season with the Bucs, only one year removed from his first Pro Bowl.

Several draft picks made this unit much better because of the speed and physical power they'll provide on the coverage units.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

Last year, Gruden lamented constantly about the team's difficult schedule. Thanks to that 4-12 record, Tampa Bay has only one prime-time game and faces opponents with a combined 2006 record of 121-135. The Bucs' strength of schedule ranks 27th in the league.

RATING: Even

— Katherine Smith

2006 RESULTS

Record: 4-12

Sep. 10	BALTIMORE	0-27
Sep. 17	at Atlanta	3-14
Sep. 24	CAROLINA	24-26
Oct. 1	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 8	at New Orleans	21-24
Oct. 15	CINCINNATI	14-13
Oct. 22	PHILADELPHIA	23-21
Oct. 29	at N.Y. Giants	3-17
Nov. 5	NEW ORLEANS	14-31
Nov. 13	at Carolina	10-24
Nov. 19	WASHINGTON	20-17
Nov. 23	at Dallas	10-38
Dec. 3	at Pittsburgh	3-20
Dec. 10	ATLANTA	6-17
Dec. 17	at Chicago (OT)	31-34
Dec. 24	at Cleveland	22-7
Dec. 31	SEATTLE	7-23

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 10	NEW ENGLAND (Fri.)	7:30
Aug. 18	at Jacksonville (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 25	at Miami (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 30	HOUSTON (Thu.)	8:00
Sep. 9	at Seattle	1:15
Sep. 16	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Sep. 23	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Sep. 30	at Carolina	4:05
Oct. 7	at Indianapolis	4:05
Oct. 14	TENNESSEE	1:00
Oct. 21	at Detroit	1:00
Oct. 28	JACKSONVILLE	4:05
Nov. 4	ARIZONA	1:00
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 25	WASHINGTON	1:00
Dec. 2	at New Orleans	12:00
Dec. 9	at Houston	12:00
Dec. 16	ATLANTA	1:00
Dec. 23	at San Francisco	5:15
Dec. 30	CAROLINA	1:00

NFC WEST

SEAHAWKS RIPE FOR THE TAKING

Since the Seattle Seahawks won a record-tying four games on last-minute field goals by Josh Brown, they didn't exactly overwhelm the NFC West with their 9-7 record. The 7-9 San Francisco 49ers weren't impressed after beating the Seahawks twice.

The 8-8 St. Louis Rams won their last three games and like their momentum.

This was the tightest division in the NFC top to bottom, with the last-place 5-11 Arizona Cardinals four games out of first and convinced they were the league's most disappointed underachievers.

The Cardinals are the only team with a new coach. Ken Whisenhunt becomes the eighth Cardinals coach since the team moved to Arizona in 1988. That includes one interim coach in case anyone is still counting.

After winning three division titles in a row, the Seahawks are inviting challengers. They can be had by any younger, hungrier team that wants them.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Whisenhunt and offensive line coach Russ Grimm will work on two things: rebuilding the offensive line and finishing games.

Matt Leinart's development in his first full season at quarterback could be dramatic because he doesn't lack for a running back in Edgerrin James or in receivers with Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald.

Much depends on how quickly top draft choice Levi Brown can anchor the offensive line. The defense is another story. It needs attention, too, but first things first. This team is capable of scoring more than 20 points a game.

ST. LOUIS RAMS

With an offense that ranks higher than any other offensive, defensive or special teams unit in the division, the Rams believe they have a leg up on a playoff run.

Marc Bulger has a chance to be the best quarterback in the NFC and he already has the league's best combination of receivers and runners around him in Torry Holt, Isaac Bruce, Steven Jackson and newcomers Drew Bennett from Tennessee and Randy McMichael from Miami.

If coach Scott Linehan and defensive coordinator Jim Haslett can find somebody to stop the run, they'll challenge. Top draft choice Adam Carriker can be a hero if he adapts to defensive tackle from his college position of end.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Nobody gave up more points than the 49ers and nobody had more money to spend under the salary cap. Putting 412 points and $40 million together, coach Mike Nolan added five potential new defensive starters in free agency and the draft. They made Buffalo cornerback Nate Clements one of the richest defensive players ever and made Mississippi linebacker Patrick Willis the first defensive player drafted in the division.

Frank Gore led the NFC in rushing and looks like a superstar, the perfect teammate for young quarterback Alex Smith. With the addition of Seattle receiver Darrell Jackson and the development of a healthy second-year tight end Vernon Davis, the 49ers could be as good as that new defense allows.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

After nine offensive starters missed a total of 48 games, coach Mike Holmgren noticed, "We never lined up with the team I wanted to line up with."

Holmgren needs big rebound years from 2005 stars Shaun Alexander and Matt Hasselbeck to make another Super Bowl push. The Seahawks are counting so much on receiver Deion Branch in his first full year in Seattle that they made the unusual decision to trade leading receiver Darrell Jackson within the division, sending him to the 49ers, who were desperate for help.

In defensive end Patrick Kerney and safety Deon Grant, the Seahawks added two starters to their 19th-ranked defense, the highest-ranked defense in a division that defense forgot.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Will the Seahawks win their fourth title in a row?

No. They're the favorites, but the Rams are ready to make a move and the 49ers and Cardinals both expect to be competitive. It's somebody else's turn.

2. Which young quarterback will emerge, Alex Smith or Matt Leinart?

The 49ers' Smith and the Cardinals' Leinart finished last season less than a point apart in passer efficiency rating. Leinart has better receivers, so he gets the nod.

3. Can Steven Jackson do it again?

His 2,334 yards from scrimmage were fifth best in NFL history and almost made the Rams forget Marshall Faulk. If he stays healthy, there's no reason he can't repeat in that potent offense.

4. Can Frank Gore do it again?

Yes. His 5.4 yards a carry were best in the league. Like Jackson, he doesn't like to come out of games, but the 49ers must figure out a way to give him rest on knees that have been repaired.

5. How good is Matt Hasselbeck?

Three times in six years, his accuracy has dipped below 60 percent, too inconsistent to reach the next level. He must prove his career hasn't peaked at age 32.

— Don Pierson

"I Own This Town!"

They used to call me Vegas's gutsiest linesmaker because the biggest bettors in town - guys with $100,000, even $500,000 in their hands - couldn't make me move my line.

Now that I've returned to my first love, betting, I am still making unshakable numbers. Only now I am using them to beat the house. **And who would know better? I have all the sources and know all the moves: the pipeline, where the real number is, why they change it, how far off it is and which games are giving us the most extra points!** That' s what I mean by OWN this town. Last year - my first full season as a public handicapper - I won 17 weeks out of 22. Check the records below.

Did you win that big in '06? Well, you can this year. Here's all you do:

Call me now toll free at 1-877-822-2276 also available at VegasSportsMasters.com
or at 1-702-860-2879

And from the pre-season through December,

I'LL GIVE YOU THE SAME GAMES I BET MYSELF -

4, 5 or 6 of my best bets every week - that's 22 weeks of solid winning - all yours... at the charter price of only $199 ! *Plus,*

I GUARANTEE YOU A PROFIT OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

By October 1, if you're not ahead of the game, I'll cancel the rest of the season and refund every penny of your money with no questions asked.

AND you get all my bonus games anyway, like my:

- **Hall of Fame Game: Aug 5, Saints/Steelers**
  WON '06: Raiders (+3) Eagles 16-10
- **My Pre-Season Game of the Year**
  WON '06: Bengals (-4 ½) Packers 48-17
- **My September College Game of the Year**
  WON '06: LSU (-15) Ariz 45-3
- **My September Pro Game of the Year**
  WON '06: Broncos (+6 ½) Pats 17-7 and more

What a deal! A chance to play with #1, and win like #1! And best of all, you'll never have to wonder where the right number is or who the wise guys like. Because from now on, YOU'VE got the right number and YOU'RE the wise guy!

Nicky

Anybody can have an opinion. But when Nick Bogdanovich says Miami -7, a hundred wise guys rush to the windows to get a bet down.

When he was head linesmaker at Binion's Horseshoe - and later at the Stratosphere and the Mandalay Bay - Nick's lines were like Shakespeare: you could quote them, but you couldn't beat them. Big players tried. Black satchels flew in from the Apple, Hong Kong, Miami and Fleet Street; mostly empty bags came out. Nicky never went down for the count and neither will you if you join him because now that Nicky is on OUR side, he still calls the tune, only now it's we PLAYERS who dance our way to the bank!

Can you handle win streaks of 11-0 and 12-0? How about being ahead 54 units by week eight? Or stepping in on laughers like our 10-star BOARD BUSTER games that went 16 and 5 on the season for 76.2%!

S10	Cowboys (+2) Jaguars	17-24	L				
S16	Lou'ville (-4) Miami	31-7	W				
S17	Cowboys (-6 ½) Redskns	27-10	W				
O 8	Vikings (-6 ½) Lions	26-17	W	N 4	Tex Tech(-16) Baylor	55-21	W
	Eagles (-1 ½) Cowboys	38-24	W	N12	Titans (+7) Ravens	26-27	W
012	Colo St (+6) AFA	21-24	W	N18	Michigan (+7) Ohio St	39-42	W
014	LSU (-26) Kentucky	49-0	W		Alabama (+3) Auburn	15-22	L
	Oklahoma (-19) Iowa St	34-9	W	N19	Pats (-5 ½)Packers	35-0	W
015	Redskins (-10) Titans	22-25	L	N23	Dolphins (-3) Lions	27-10	W
023	Giants/Cowboys (↑44 ½)	36-22	W		Chiefs (-1) Broncos	19-10	W
028	So Miss (-5 ½) E Car	17-20	L	N24	Fresno St(-12)La Tech	34-27	L
029	Raiders (+9 ½)Steelers	20-13	W	N26	Bengals (-3) Browns	30-0	W

Jack Binion,
owner of the old Binion's horseshoe, says "We played super high at the horseshoe because Nick was always prepared - his line was solid as a rock... the biggest players couldn't beat him. Now that he's a player, the biggest books can't stop him!"

Lem Banker,
called "the most successful gambler in the U.S." by Wall Street Journal, says: "I've been gambling my entire life. I've met all the wise guys and wannabes. One of the few guys who has been successful on both sides of the counter is Nick Bogdanovich. He is smart and well prepared. A guy I would definitely invest in."

NICK BOGDANOVICH
3540 W. Sahara Ave. Ste. 732
Las Vegas, NV 89102-5816

ARIZONA CARDINALS

2006 RECORD: 5-11 | STADIUM: University of Phoenix Stadium, 63,400, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

NFC WEST | www.azcardinals.com

AT A GLANCE

8701 S. Hardy
Tempe, AZ 85284
(602) 379-0101

TRAINING CAMP:
Northern Arizona University; Flagstaff, AZ

COACH:
Ken Whisenhunt, 1st year with Cardinals and as NFL head coach

VICE PRESIDENT/FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Rod Graves

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Steve Keim

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Todd Haley	Offensive coordinator	11	1
Jeff Rutledge	Quarterbacks	1	1
Russ Grimm	*Offensive line	16	1
Maurice Carthon	Running backs	14	1
Mike Miller	Receivers	8	1
Freddie Kitchens	Tight ends	2	1
Dedric Ward	Offensive quality control	1	1
Clancy Pendergast	Defensive coordinator	13	4
Ron Aiken	Defensive line	1	1
Billy Davis	Linebackers	16	1
Teryl Austin	Secondary	5	1
Rick Courtright	Assistant secondary	4	4
Matt Raich	Defensive assistant	4	1
Kevin Spencer	Special teams	17	1
John Lott	Strength & Conditioning	12	1
Keith Vulgamott	Strength & Conditioning	2	2

*Assistant head coach

It's Another New Coaching Staff for Desert Birds

Phoenix isn't exactly a blue-collar town like, say, Pittsburgh. So new Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt and staff face culture shock, in more ways than one.

Pittsburgh is old and rusty. Phoenix is new and gleaming. Pittsburgh has three rivers. Phoenix has dry rivers. Pittsburgh's football team has a long and glorious history. Phoenix's football team has Bill Bidwill. So the challenge is there as Whisenhunt attempts to rebuild a franchise into a smart, disciplined, physical football team.

Whisenhunt is implementing 3-4 defensive schemes. He's loading up on offensive linemen with a nastier disposition to give a strong stable of skill-position players a better chance.

He can build around Pro Bowl running back Edgerrin James, Pro Bowl receivers Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald and quarterback Matt Leinart. There is a solid defensive nucleus with Pro Bowl strong safety Adrian Wilson, Pro Bowl defensive end/outside linebacker Bertrand Berry and young linebackers Karlos Dansby and Gerald Hayes.

"We're not trying to change the world," Whisenhunt said. "We understand it's not always going to be easy or smooth, but we just want to be consistent in what we're trying to do with the organization and what we put on the field on Sundays."

COACHING

Whisenhunt, the man with a civil engineering degree but visions of an uncivil football team, wants to pound it. Whisenhunt is attempting to establish a physical, disciplined, fundamentally sound identity for his team, but don't forget that he made his living in Pittsburgh to a large extent by knowing when and where to unleash a gadget play. He said he expects to call 600 rushing plays, many with a lead fullback — which Cardinals fans haven't seen in years.

With him comes assistant head coach and offensive line coach Russ Grimm, who has mentored many Pro Bowl linemen. Defensive coordinator Clancy Pendergast, a holdover from Dennis Green's staff, has a mischievous streak in his schemes and game plans. Offensive coordinator Todd Haley coached a fifth-ranked passing game in Dallas.

RATING: 6

QUARTERBACKS

Leinart unexpectedly became the starter in Game 5 and quickly showed he belonged. He set a franchise record for passing yards by a rookie (2,547), surpassing the Jake Plummer's nine-year-old mark. Leinart passed for 200-plus yards in eight of his 11 starts. His 405 yards passing at Minnesota set an NFL rookie record. Leinart

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
OT Levi Brown

The mauling tackle from Penn State, who once was a defensive tackle, should improve a woeful rushing attack. He sometimes plays a bit upright and needs pass protection technique work, but he has Russ Grimm to coach him up.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
DE Rodney Bailey, CB Ralph Brown, T Mike Gandy, S Terrence Holt, CB Rod Hood, C Al Johnson, DT Ross Kolodziej, WR Sean Morey, DE Antonio Smith, FB Terrelle Smith, DE Joe Tafoya

KEY LOSS:
T Leonard Davis (16/16)*
Davis never realized the dreams the team had when it chose him No. 2 overall in 2001. He was more effective early as a guard than the last three seasons at left tackle.

OTHER LOSSES
TE Adam Bergen (14/7), S Jack Brewer (0/0), LB James Darling (3/0), S Robert Griffith (16/16), LB Orlando Huff (16/13), OL Chris Liwienski (16/6), CB David Macklin (14/7), QB John Navarre (0/0), C Alex Stepanovich (5/5), CB Robert Tate (9/0), TE/OL Fred Wakefield (16/9), WR/PR Troy Walters (15/3)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 9 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

became the Cardinals' first rookie quarterback to get a win as a starter in nine years and became the only quarterback in NFL history to pass for two touchdowns in the first quarter in each of his first two starts. He is ably backed up by Kurt Warner.

RATING: 7

RUNNING BACKS

How good is Edgerrin James? He didn't have a 100-yard game until Game 12, and still finished with 1,000 yards. James had minor off-season knee surgery and he'll have a new line, rebuilt with physical players. The plan is to run a lead fullback — free agent pickup Terrelle Smith — in front of him. James figures to get a healthy dose of the 600 or so rushes that Whisenhunt plans to call. Behind James is a big-bodied back capable of moving a pile, Marcel Shipp, who found a niche last year as the short-yardage, goal-line rusher. They're a formidable 1-2 punch. Whether J.J. Arrington can add anything is up to the 2005 second-round pick.

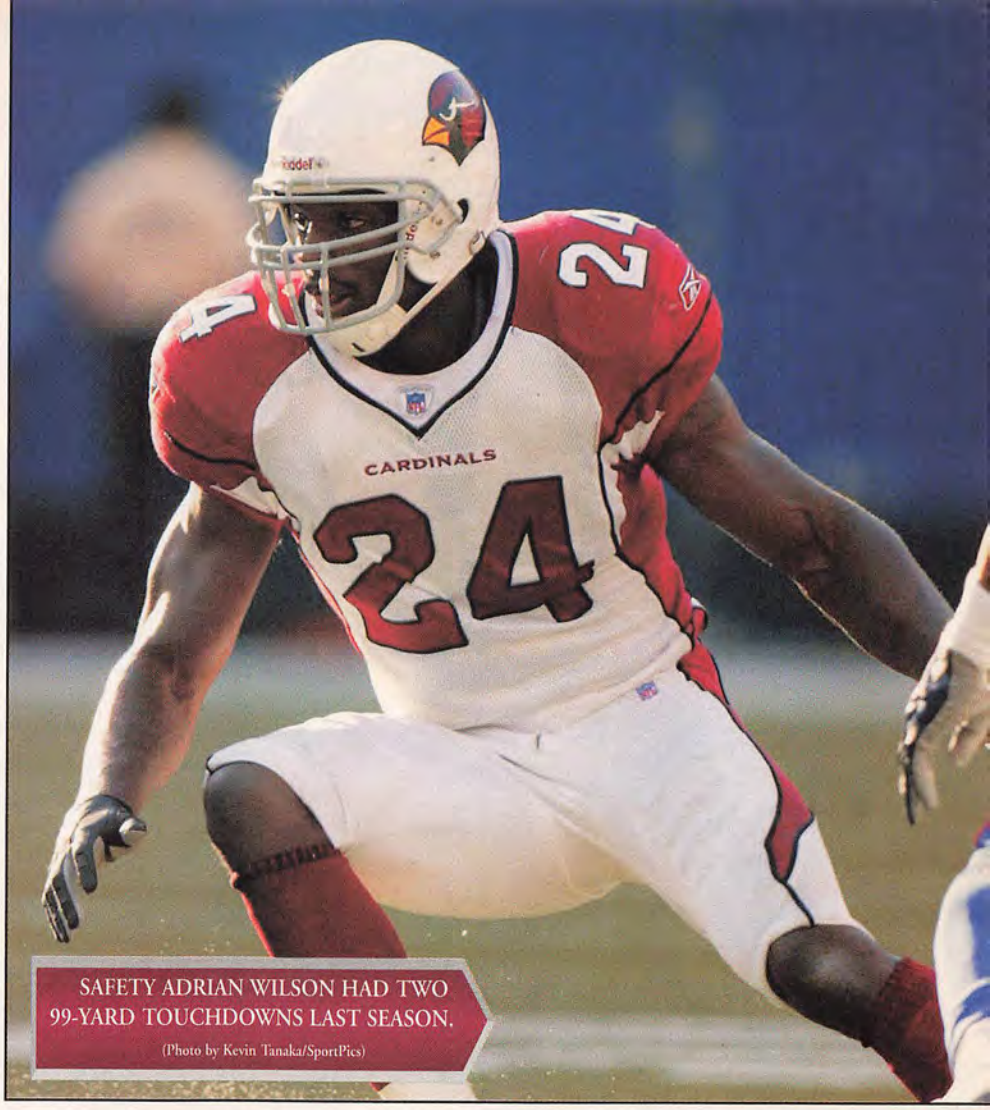
RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

The starters are Pro Bowlers Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald. Speedy Bryant Johnson makes the big-yardage grabs as No. 3 wideout. The Cardinals have 6-8, athletic tight end Leonard Pope, a starter as a rookie, to work the seam. So the unit didn't need much. Yet in No. 5 pick Steve Breaston, who is expected to be the return specialist and compete for the No. 4 wideout spot, and tight end Ben Patrick, who had a second-round grade by some scouts but fell to the seventh round, the Cardinals landed two rookies who will very likely crack the unit and contribute. Boldin was a 2007 Pro Bowl starter, after joining Roy Green (1983-84-88) as the only Cardinals players ever with three 1,000-yard seasons in a career.

Fitzgerald, a 2006 Pro Bowler, just missed a second 1,000-yard year (946) and no doubt would have had it had he not missed three games to injury. But Breaston's speed, rivaling that of Johnson, and Patrick's size and hands make an already strong group potentially outstanding.

RATING: 9



SAFETY ADRIAN WILSON HAD TWO 99-YARD TOUCHDOWNS LAST SEASON.

(Photo by Kevin Tanaka/SportPics)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

It took the Cardinals nearly three months to find a starting group that played well together — and then another three months to tear it apart and start over. The only likely opening-day starter in the same spot where he started the season finale is right guard Deuce Lutui, who cracked the lineup at midyear as a rookie. The Cardinals can no longer tolerate sub-standard performance. They can't have Matt Leinart's shoulders popping out from hits on sacks. They can't have Edgerrin James going three months before he has a 100-yard game.

So free agent Mike Gandy and first-round draft pick Levi Brown have been added to improve the tackles. Al Johnson, another free agent, is the likely starter at center. Brown and Gandy will compete with Oliver Ross for the starting tackle spots. The odd man out will be a high-quality backup. Reggie Wells then goes back to left guard.

RATING: 6

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Bertrand Berry and Chike Okeafor are 30 years old, but there's still life. They've been ends in the team's 4-3 alignment, but with more use of the 3-4 upcoming, the veterans are being asked to learn outside linebacker duties, too. Okeafor is coming off a year in which he led the team with 8.5 sacks, tying his career high. Berry has not made it through either of the past two seasons since his 2004 Pro Bowl year. His durability comes into question. They're both smart and should handle the new duties well.

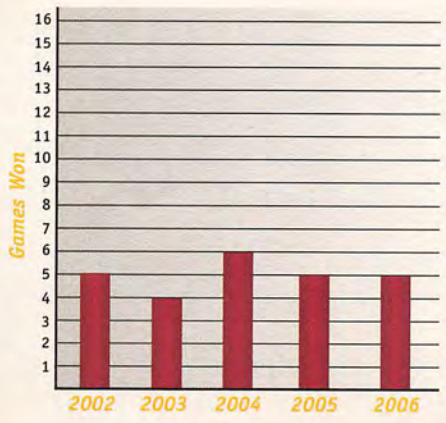
Inside, Kendrick Clancy anchors the middle and Darnell Dockett plays next to him. In 3-4 alignments, a couple of former under-performing Michigan Wolverines — Gabe Watson and 2007 second-round pick Alan Branch — could be dominating. The pieces are in place to restore the defense to a top-10 level, where it was in 2005 before a nasty slide.

RATING: 6

LINEBACKERS

Karlos Dansby is an enigma. When he's on the field, there are few linebackers with more athleticism, versatility and playmaking grace. He had eight sacks in his final 11 games, recovering from

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs:*

Cardinals Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
81	**Boldin, Anquan**	**6-1**	**223**	**5**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D2 03**	**D2 ARIZ 03**	**2007 Pro Bowler is one of game's best possession receivers, but not a burner.**
18	Breaston, Steve (KR)	6-0	193	R	Michigan	0/0	D5 07	D5 ARIZ 07	5th-round pick has speed; may be No. 4, but real value is on kick returns.
11	**Fitzgerald, Larry**	**6-3**	**226**	**4**	**Pittsburgh**	**13/13**	**D1 04**	**D1 ARIZ 04**	**2006 Pro Bowler knows how to get open for big play; 1,000-yard guy.**
80	Johnson, Bryant	6-3	216	5	Penn State	16/8	D1 03	D1 ARIZ 03	Speedster growing into strong No.3; catches go for big yardage.
19	*McCoy, LeRon	6-1	219	3	Indiana, Pa.	0/0	D7 05	D7 ARIZ 05	Coming off knee injury that had him on injured reserve all season; showed speed in '05.
86	Merritt, Ahmad	5-10	195	3	Wisconsin	0/0	FA 07	OFA CHI 00	Insurance signing for depth at receiver/returner, but job likely to go to Steve Breaston.
87	Morey, Sean	5-11	200	5	Brown	16/9	UFA,PITT 07	D7 NE 99	Veteran special teams standout signed specifically to improve coverage teams.
89	Patrick, Ben (TE)	6-3	252	R	Delaware	0/0	D7 07	D7 ARIZ 07	Seventh-round pick was graded much higher; fine receiver with good size.
82	**Pope, Leonard (TE)**	**6-8**	**265**	**2**	**Georgia**	**16/6**	**D3 06**	**D3 ARIZ 06**	**Speed, athleticism and 6-8 target to run up seam, complement receivers.**
15	Spurlock, Michael (KR)	5-10	214	1	Mississippi	1/0	FA 06	OFA ARIZ 06	Long-shot to make it as kick returner or fourth wideout in crowded field.
14	Watkins, Todd	6-2	191	1	Brigham Young	0/0	D7 06	D7 ARIZ 06	Coming up from practice squad in '06; intriguing prospect with great speed.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
61	Brown, Elton (G)	6-5	340	3	Virginia	0/0	D4 05	D4 ARIZ 05	Future clouded; did not take a snap in '06 after nine starts as a rookie.
75	**Brown, Levi (T)**	**6-5**	**323**	**R**	**Penn State**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 ARIZ 07**	**1st-round pick can play either side; mauling blocker, needs pass work.**
67	Brown, Milford (G)	6-5	330	6	Florida State	13/12	UFA,HOU 06	SD7 HOUS 03	OK blocker; likely nudged to bench with Reggie Wells back at guard.
69	**Gandy, Mike (T)**	**6-4**	**310**	**7**	**Notre Dame**	**16/16**	**UFA,BUFF 07**	**D3 CHI 01**	**Tough journeyman free-agent pickup; to battle for a starting job.**
72	Gorin, Brandon (T)	6-6	308	6	Purdue	0/0	T,NE 06	D7 SD 01	Disappointment after team gave up '06 sixth-round pick; depth player.
50	**Johnson, Al (C)**	**6-5**	**311**	**5**	**Wisconsin**	**16/0**	**UFA,DALL 07**	**D2 DALL 03**	**Physical free-agent pickup; likely to nudge Nick Leckey from starting job.**
60	Leckey, Nick (G)	6-3	291	4	Kansas State	14/11	D6 04	D6 ARIZ 04	Starter at end of '06 as team made run; may go back to bench.
76	**Lutui, Deuce (G)**	**6-4**	**338**	**2**	**Southern Cal**	**15/9**	**D2 06**	**D2 ARIZ 06**	**Big-bodied, versatile lineman; cracked right-side starting job as rookie.**
73	Mitchell, Qasim (T)	6-5	347	5	North Carolina A&T	0/0	FA 07	OFA CLV 02	Good veteran pickup for depth, but really signed for special teams.
79	Ross, Oliver (T)	6-4	327	9	Iowa State	11/5	UFA,PITT 05	D5 DALL 98	Two-year disappointment due to recurring injuries and lack of competition.
74	**Wells, Reggie (G/T)**	**6-4**	**318**	**5**	**Clarion**	**16/16**	**D6 03**	**D6 ARIZ 03**	**Moving back to guard and likely left-side starter after year at right tackle.**
RUNNING BACKS									
28	Arrington, J.J.	5-9	218	3	California	16/0	D2 05	D2 ARIZ 05	Goes to camp no better than No. 3. Make-or-break after two disappointing years.
30	Ayanbadejo, Obafemi (FB)	6-2	230	9	San Diego State	14/0	UFA,MIA 04	OFA MINN 97	Good receiver, average blocker; role and amount of play may diminish.
85	Bronson, John (FB)	6-3	275	2	Penn State	2/0	FA 06	OFA ARIZ 05	Making conversion to blocking fullback from tight end; big body, decent hands.
32	**James, Edgerrin**	**6-0**	**220**	**9**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**UFA,IND 06**	**D1 IND 99**	**1,000-yard year was big deal to Cards, down year for him; will slash more.**
44	Schable, A.J. (FB)	6-3	281	2	South Dakota	11/0	OFA 06	OFA ARIZ 06	Has body to be blocker; real value is on special teams coverage units.
31	Shipp, Marcel	5-11	232	7	Massachusetts	15/0	OFA 01	OFA ARIZ 01	Clear No. 2 and short-yardage/goal-line back; banger, great change-of-pace back.
45	**Smith, Terrelle (FB)**	**6-0**	**246**	**7**	**Arizona State**	**16/8**	**FA 07**	**D4 NO 00**	**Free-agent pickup expected to be starting lead blocker for Edgerrin James.**
QUARTERBACKS									
9	Boyd, Shane	6-1	232	1	Kentucky	0/0	FA 06	OFA TENN 05	Long-shot to land No. 3 job; coming up from a season on the practice squad.
7	**Leinart, Matt**	**6-5**	**230**	**2**	**Southern Cal**	**12/11**	**D1 06**	**D1 ARIZ 06**	**Set NFL and team rookie passing records; showed he belongs; shoulder issues.**
13	Warner, Kurt	6-2	222	10	Northern Iowa	6/5	UFA,NYG 05	OFA GB 94	Goes to camp as No. 2; excellent backup, still more than capable if needed.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
91	Bailey, Rodney (E)	6-3	305	7	Ohio State	12/0	UFA,PITT 07	D6 PITT 01	Experienced, reliable veteran pickup who knows 3-4; rotation player.
92	***Berry, Bertrand (E)**	**6-3**	**270**	**10**	**Notre Dame**	**0/10**	**UFA,DEN 04**	**D3 IND 97**	**Trying to shake two injury-slowed years after 14-sack 2004; outside linebacker in 3-4 looks.**
78	Branch, Alan (T)	6-5	334	R	Michigan	0/0	D2 07	D2 ARIZ 07	Second round pick is big, strong with huge potential; motivation questionable.
70	**Clancy, Kendrick (T)**	**6-1**	**305**	**8**	**Mississippi**	**11/11**	**UFA,BYG 06**	**D3 PITT 00**	**Undisputed anchor of line inside; a real space-eating nose tackle.**
93	Cooper, Chris (E)	6-5	285	7	Nebraska-Omaha	13/0	FA 06	D6 OAK 01	Excellent role-playing veteran pickup last season; niche in rotation.
90	**Dockett, Darnell (T)**	**6-4**	**290**	**4**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D3 04**	**D3 ARIZ 04**	**Athletic playmaker, but undersized; hasn't missed game in three years as starter.**
96	Kolodziej, Ross (T)	6-3	292	5	Wisconsin	12/0	UFA,MINN 07	D7 NYG 01	Re-signed after so-so-year in Minnesota; 25 tackles for Cards in 2005.
95	Lewis, Jonathan (T)	6-1	312	2	Virginia Tech	4/0	D6 06	D6 ARIZ 06	Needs some strength if he is to see any more action; four rookie appearances.
56	**Okeafor, Chike (E)**	**6-5**	**265**	**9**	**Purdue**	**16/15**	**UFA,SEA 05**	**D3 SF 99**	**At 30, coming off career-tying 8.5 sacks; to play some outside linebacker.**
94	Smith, Antonio (E)	6-4	280	3	Oklahoma State	16/8	FA 04	D5 ARIZ 04	Raised hopes as pass rusher in NFL Europe couple of years ago.
71	Tafoya, Joe (E)	6-4	265	6	Arizona	13/0	UFA,SEA 07	D7 TB 01	Role-playing experienced free-agent pickup; could play special teams.
98	Watson, Gabe (T)	6-3	340	2	Michigan	12/5	D4 06	D4 ARIZ 06	Big, world of potential, but needs to drop weight, work harder to play.
LINEBACKERS									
52	Beisel, Monty (M)	6-3	240	7	Kansas State	8/2	FA 06	D4 KC 01	Showed big in late-season opportunities as injury-fill-in; good special teams player.
55	Blackstock, Darryl (O)	6-3	240	3	Virginia	16/1	D3 05	D3 ARIZ 05	Time to step up after slow career start; shortage at position.
58	**Dansby, Karlos (O)**	**6-4**	**240**	**4**	**Auburn**	**14/10**	**D2 04**	**D2 ARIZ 04**	**Big-time athletic playmaker; to see action inside in 3-4 looks.**
51	*Darling, James (O)	6-1	245	11	Washington State	3/0	UFA,NYJ 03	D2 PHA 97	Versatile veteran, started inside and outside; getting along in years. Might be re-signed.
53	Davis, Buster (O)	5-9	239	R	Florida State	0/0	D3 07	D3 ARIZ 07	Third-round pick was playmaking terror in college; size, range may hurt him.
54	**Hayes, Gerald (M)**	**6-1**	**253**	**5**	**Pittsburgh**	**14/14**	**D3 03**	**D3 ARIZ 03**	**Big, physical plugger in middle in 4-3 looks; overcame knee injury.**
57	Huff, Orlando (M)	6-3	236	7	Fresno State	16/13	UFA,SEA 05	D4 SEA 01	Two-year starter, but a disappointing performer who likely will be replaced. Might be re-signed.
59	Johnson, Brandon (O)	6-5	224	2	Louisville	3/0	D5 06	D5 ARIZ 06	Saw limited duty year ago; decent size and skills; special teams.
97	**Pace, Calvin (O)**	**6-4**	**272**	**5**	**Wake Forest**	**16/5**	**D1 03**	**D1 ARIZ 03**	**Made successful conversion from defensive end year ago to save career.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
20	Brown, Ralph (CB)	5-10	185	8	Nebraska	16/4	UFA,CLV 07	D5 NYG 00	Free-agent pickup for depth and special teams; adds experience.
47	**Francisco, Aaron (S)**	**6-2**	**212**	**3**	**Brigham Young**	**16/2**	**FA 05**	**OFA ARIZ 05**	**Expected to step in as starter at free safety; big-time hitter.**
25	Green, Eric (CB)	5-11	194	3	Virginia Tech	15/8	D3 05	D3 ARIZ 05	Will contend for starting job; could land nickel spot; make-or-break year.
42	Holt, Terrence (S)	6-2	208	5	North Carolina State	16/15	UFA,DET 07	D5 DET 03	Coming over from Detroit; looking for niche on special teams or as a backup.
26	**Hood, Roderick (CB)**	**5-11**	**196**	**5**	**Auburn**	**10/5**	**UFA,PHA 07**	**OFA PHA 03**	**May be the best free-agent pickup by the team; expected to start.**
23	Hunter, Darrell (CB)	6-1	206	1	Miami, Ohio	3/0	FA 06	OFA ARIZ 06	Saw very limited duty last year; may find spot for depth in weak unit.
37	Milligan, Hanik (S)	6-3	200	5	Houston	16/0	W,SD 06	D6 SD 03	Won't see much action on defense; team's best on special teams.
21	**Rolle, Antrel (CB)**	**6-0**	**208**	**3**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 ARIZ 05**	**Some talk of move to safety after weak early career; make-or-break year.**
22	Ware, Matt (CB)	6-2	210	4	UCLA	14/1	W,PHA 06	D3 PHA 04	Saw sparse backup duty last season; not much more than reserve.
24	**Wilson, Adrian (S)**	**6-3**	**230**	**7**	**North Carolina State**	**16/16**	**D3 01**	**D3 ARIZ 01**	**2007 Pro Bowler blossomed as playmaker; blitz specialist.**
SPECIALISTS									
48	Hodel, Nathan (LS)	6-2	242	6	Illinois	16/0	FA 01	OFA CARO 01	Six-year veteran is solid, consistent; rarely makes a bad snap.
10	Player, Scott (P)	6-1	206	10	Florida State	16/0	FA 98	OFA ARIZ 96	Known for hang time, directional boots; valuable field-position weapon.
1	Rackers, Neil (K)	6-1	212	8	Illinois	16/0	FA 03	D6 CIN 00	Accurate field-goal kicker to 50-yard-plus range; touchbacks on kickoffs.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Greg Lee (1, Pittsburgh), Evan Prall (East Stroudsburg), Matt Trannon (Michigan State); TEs Troy Bienemann (1, Washington State), Alex Shor (1, Syracuse); OT Elliot Vallejo (Cal-Davis); OGs Tim Downing (Ohio State), Jon Hameister-Ries (Tulsa), Brian Johnson (Louisiana State), Lyle Sendlein (Texas); QB Toby Korrodi (Central Missouri State); RB Steve Baylark (Massachusetts); FBs Tim Castille (Alabama), BranDon Snow (Penn State), Roshon Vercher (Fresno State); DT Ray Blagman (Connecticut); LBs David Holloway (Maryland), Pago Togafau (Idaho State); CBs Michael Adams (Louisiana-Lafayette), Travarous Bain (Hampton), Justin Wyatt (1, Southern Cal); Ss Will Gulley (Houston), Brandon Keeler (Eastern Washington); P/K Ricky Schmitt (Shepherd)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*A physical rushing game. In retrospect, it is a miracle that Edgerrin James reached 1,000 yards last season, given the line he ran behind. The folks up front have been revamped and the team signed a lead fullback. The new coach wants to pound it.

*The new-look defense. It isn't a complete redesign. Coordinator Clancy Pendergast concocted many 3-4 looks the last couple of years. Now, he has been given more rope. Veteran ends Bertrand Berry and Chike Okeafor will at times function as outside linebackers with three essentially down tackles.

*A new coaching staff ... again. It seems the Cardinals do this about every three years — and on average, since their move to Arizona, they have. This is their seventh staff in 20 years. The emphasis is on disciplined, smart, physical play.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Antrel Rolle

Cornerback Antrel Rolle has had such an inglorious start to his pro career that there actually was talk during the off-season of moving him to safety.

But early during free agency, new coach Ken Whisenhunt said that Rolle stays at corner, where his size and physical play at the line of scrimmage grab a foe's attention.

This is a big year for the 2005 first-round pick. He missed 11 games as a rookie to a knee injury, so he was practically a rookie again in 2006. And it wasn't pretty. Playing in all 16 games, Rolle made only one interception, and it doubled his career total.

The team signed Roderick Hood, but that is to play opposite Rolle, not to knock him out of the lineup. A number of mid-level free agents also joined the team, ostensibly to push Rolle. But if he cannot maintain the job against that level of competition, he does, indeed, have career problems.

"We want to create a situation where you have competition at the positions," Whisenhunt said. "My experience is if you have competition, you get better. The players that don't respond to competition are the ones you don't want on the team."

a slow start caused by thumb, toe and groin injuries. And now he will move inside when the team makes greater use of 3-4 schemes. But in three pro seasons, Dansby has yet to play in all 16 games. Gerald Hayes, who emerged in the middle in his first full season as a starter, gives the team more size and physical presence inside than it had known during the Ron McKinnon years. Quality and depth have been issues among the team's linebackers for years, leading to the move to minimize the shortage by playing more 3-4, converting a healthy batch of ends into outside linebackers. Berry, Okeafor and Calvin Pace will play outside in 3-4 schemes.

RATING: 6.5

SECONDARY

There are few better strong safeties than 2007 Pro Bowler Adrian Wilson, the only player in the league who had five sacks and four interceptions last season. He had two 99-yard touchdowns on returns of a fumble and an interception, making him the only player in NFL history with two defensive scores of 99-plus yards in a season. All of that came a year after he'd set a league record among defensive backs with eight sacks on safety blitzes. Aaron Francisco, a 2007 Pro Bowl alternate on special teams, steps in at free safety. The weak link of the team now is corner, where 2006 first-round pick Antrel Rolle still hasn't proven himself. Veteran free agent Roderick Hood was signed to play opposite Rolle. Depth and quality at corner are still real issues. The team may try to cover it by playing more zone.

RATING: 6.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Neil Rackers had a record-setting Pro Bowl season two years ago, but tailed off in 2006. He remains one of the game's best at touchbacks and field goal accuracy. Punter Scott Player is many seasons removed from his Pro Bowl year but he remains one of the game's best directional punters. With his ability to nail foes inside the 20, Player is a valued field-position weapon. Nathan Hodel is a proven long snapper. The returner of kickoffs and punts is likely to be Breaston. Many players with track records of special-teams success have been added to shore up the embarrassing coverage teams.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

A new coaching staff, a haul of free agents who will shore up the offensive line and a draft class of Levi Brown, Alan Branch, Steve Breaston, Buster Davis and Ben Patrick joining a solid nucleus of Edgerrin James, Matt Leinart, Anquan Boldin, Larry Fitzgerald, Adrian Wilson, Bertrand Berry, Gerald Hayes and Karlos Dansby give this team solid reason for renewed hope.

RATING: Plus 2

— Lee Shappell

2006 RESULTS

Record: 5-11

Sep. 10	SAN FRANCISCO	34-27
Sep. 17	at Seattle	10-21
Sep. 24	ST. LOUIS	14-16
Oct. 1	at Atlanta	10-32
Oct. 8	KANSAS CITY	20-23
Oct. 16	CHICAGO	23-24
Oct. 22	at Oakland	9-22
Oct. 29	at Green Bay	14-31
Nov. 5	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 12	DALLAS	10-27
Nov. 19	DETROIT	17-10
Nov. 26	at Minnesota	26-31
Dec. 3	at St. Louis	34-20
Dec. 10	SEATTLE	27-21
Dec. 17	DENVER	20-37
Dec. 24	at San Francisco	26-20
Dec. 31	at San Diego	20-27

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	at Oakland (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 18	HOUSTON (Sat.)	1:00
Aug. 25	SAN DIEGO (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 30	at Denver (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 10	at San Francisco (Mon.)	7:15
Sep. 16	SEATTLE	1:05
Sep. 23	at Baltimore	1:00
Sep. 30	PITTSBURGH	1:15
Oct. 7	at St. Louis	12:00
Oct. 14	CAROLINA	1:05
Oct. 21	at Washington	1:00
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Nov. 11	DETROIT	2:15
Nov. 18	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 25	SAN FRANCISCO	2:05
Dec. 2	CLEVELAND	2:05
Dec. 9	at Seattle	1:05
Dec. 16	at New Orleans	12:00
Dec. 23	ATLANTA	2:05
Dec. 30	ST. LOUIS	2:15

ST. LOUIS RAMS

2006 RECORD: 8-8 | STADIUM: Edward Jones Dome, 66,000, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

NFC WEST | www.stlouisrams.com

AT A GLANCE

One Rams Way
St. Louis, MO 63045
(314) 982-7267

TRAINING CAMP:
Rams Park

COACH:
Scott Linehan, 2nd year with Rams and as NFL head coach (8-8)

PRESIDENT, FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Jay Zygmunt

VICE PRESIDENT, PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Tony Softli

DIRECTOR/PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Lawrence McCutcheon

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Greg Olson	Offensive coordinator	6	2
Jeff Horton	Special asst./offense	2	2
Doug Nussmeier	Quarterbacks	2	2
Paul Boudreau	Offensive line	21	2
Jim Chaney	Assistant line	2	2
Wayne Moses	Running backs	2	2
Judd Garrett	Tight ends	11	2
Henry Ellard	Receivers	7	7
Keith Murphy	Offensive quality control	1	1
Jim Haslett	Defensive coordinator	15	2
Brian Baker	Defensive line	12	2
Rick Venturi	*Linebackers	27	2
Willy Robinson	Secondary	14	2
Ron Milus	Assistant secondary	8	2
Mike Cox	Def. quality control/asst. DL	1	1
Al Roberts	Special teams	17	1
Todd Downing	Asst. special teams	5	2
Dana LeDuc	Strength & Conditioning	3	9
Brad Roll	Strength & Conditioning	15	2

*Assistant head coach

Under the Radar, Rams Feel They're Ready to Surprise

It was a season of highs and lows for first-year coach Scott Linehan in 2006. There was a 4-1 start that had the team thinking playoffs.

However, a Week 6 loss to Seattle on a last-second field goal began a stretch where the Rams were able to win just one of eight games. Hope was reborn with a season-ending three-game winning streak that evened the team's record at 8-8, and produced optimism for the 2007 season.

While it was obvious help was needed for a run defense that ranked 31st in the NFL, many of the off-season moves helped the sixth-ranked offense. Linehan believes more scoring and better production in the red zone will create leads, with the result being less running by the opposition.

Still, defense was addressed with the addition on the first round of tackle Adam Carriker, as well as the acquisition of defensive end James Hall for a fifth-round draft pick.

Also notable were the signings of defensive end Leonard Little and linebacker Pisa Tinoisamoa during the 2006 season, moves that kept both players off the free-agent market and meant the team did not have to place a franchise tag on Little.

COACHING

Linehan showed growth as a head coach when he handed over play-calling duties to offensive coordinator Greg Olson after a disheartening 15-0 loss to Carolina on Nov. 19. That was the Rams' fifth consecutive defeat, and Linehan felt he needed to concentrate on coaching the entire team, not just the offense. After the move, the Rams won three of their last five games, and Olson ensured that running back Steven Jackson would remain the focal point of the offense.

Defensive coordinator Jim Haslett led a defense that improved its total takeaways from 27 in 2005 to 32, but still was gashed in the running game for 4.9 yards per attempt and allowed too many big plays. Al Roberts will be the organization's sixth special teams coach in nine seasons.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

Marc Bulger got off to a slow start as he tried to become comfortable in Linehan's system. It is one that emphasizes being careful with the football, and checking down to outlet receivers when nothing is available downfield, as opposed to Mike Martz's risk-reward approach where it was believed interceptions could be overcome. Bulger had just eight interceptions in 588 attempts, compared to nine in 287 attempts the season before when he missed eight games because of a shoulder injury. Bulger passed for 4,301 yards with 24 touchdowns in 2006, and it's scary what he is capable of now that he knows the offense.

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
TE Randy McMichael

Coach Scott Linehan couldn't move fast enough when McMichael was released by the Dolphins. He brings instant experience and ability to an offense where Linehan loves to throw to the tight end.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
WR Drew Bennett, LB Chris Draft, WR/KR Dante' Hall, DE James Hall, S Todd Johnson, P Donnie Jones, RB Travis Minor, CB Mike Rumph, CB Lenny Walls

KEY LOSS:
WR Kevin Curtis (16/1)
Curtis' presence added speed to the receiving corps, but he wasn't going to crack the starting lineup. That's what he wanted and that's what he got after signing with the Eagles.

OTHER LOSSES:
LB Jamal Brooks (7/0), S Dwaine Carpenter (9/0), LB Dexter Coakley (16/5), RB Stephen Davis (15/0), RB Marshall Faulk (0/0), RB Tony Fisher (8/0), CB Travis Fisher (9/9), NT Jason Fisk (16/0), DE Brandon Green (13/5), LB Isaiah Kacyvenski (10/0), WR Shaun McDonald (16/0), WR /KR Willie Ponder (6/0), FB Paul Smith (10/3), G Adam Timmerman (13/13), P Matt Turk (16/0). C Larry Turner (1/0)

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 10 offense, 10 defense, kicker
*Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

Gus Frerotte is Bulger's backup, and he had just three attempts all season. But he knows Linehan's system and would be fine for a stretch of games if he had to play. Ryan Fitzpatrick is the No. 3 quarterback, unless there is a surprise and undrafted free agent Drew Tate beats him out.

RATING: 8

RUNNING BACKS

Jackson called for the ball throughout the 2006 off-season, and he got it to the tune of 436 touches from scrimmage, including a club-record 90 receptions for a running back. Jackson led the NFL with 2,334 yards from scrimmage, and rushed for 1,528 yards on 346 attempts. He improved his north-south running, thanks to the guidance of Stephen Davis, who isn't expected to return because of bad knees.

Backing up Jackson will be second-round pick Brian Leonard, who can also catch and block. Leonard played fullback his final two seasons at Rutgers after being asked to move there, and he will be a tailback with the Rams. The Rams love his team attitude and ability. Travis Minor will also compete for a backup job. Madison Hedgecock does a solid job when called upon to play fullback, and packs a punch with his 266-pound frame.

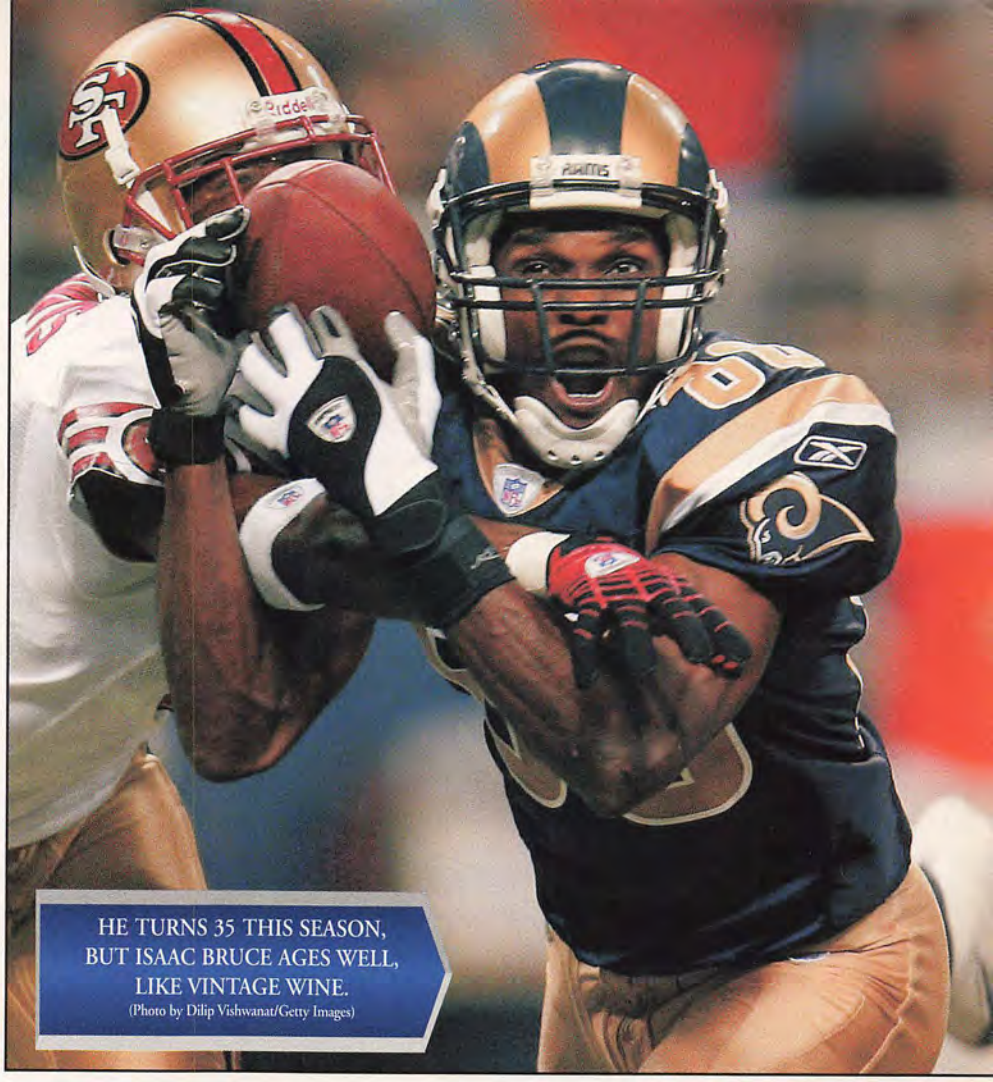
RATING: 8

RECEIVERS

Every year, there are those that write off Isaac Bruce, and every year he posts excellent numbers. Bruce totaled 1,098 yards on 74 receptions in 2006 and shows no signs that turning 35 this season means anything. Bruce looks like he could play forever. Torry Holt played about half the season with a knee injury and had minor surgery in the off-season. While his string of 1,300-yard seasons stopped at six seasons, he still had 93 catches for 1,188 yards and 10 touchdowns.

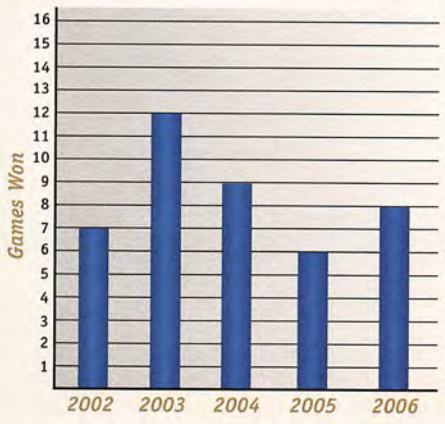
Drew Bennett was quickly signed in the off-season when it became obvious the Rams wouldn't be able to keep Kevin Curtis. Bennett is 6-5, and the Rams believe he will help in the red zone, as will tight end Randy McMichael, who was signed after being released by Miami. McMichael had 62 receptions in 2006; Rams tight ends Joe Klopfenstein, Dominique Byrd and Aaron Walker totaled 27. Klopfenstein started all 16 games as a rookie; Byrd has two off-field incidents in the last seven months that could land him on the suspended list.

RATING: 8.5



HE TURNS 35 THIS SEASON, BUT ISAAC BRUCE AGES WELL, LIKE VINTAGE WINE.
(Photo by Dilip Vishwanat/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Injuries hit the interior of the offensive line, but it resulted in younger players getting the opportunity and doing well. Seventh-round pick Mark Setterstrom ended the season as the starter at left guard, and he was joined by center Brett Romberg and right guard Richie Incognito, who also started games at left guard and center. They all return, but 37-year-old center Andy McCollum will be back after injuring his knee in the season opener and he is intent on winning his job back.

Left tackle Orlando Pace is back after suffering a torn triceps, while right tackle Alex Barron has to find a way to cut down on his league-leading 14 false starts. Todd Steussie returns as a versatile backup that started games at guard and tackle last season, while fifth-round pick Dustin Fry will compete for a backup job at guard and center.

RATING: 7.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Left end Leonard Little had 13 sacks in 2006, and that was without much help from the other side. The addition of James Hall should provide a rush from right end and take some double-teams away from Little. Victor Adeyanju is the top backup at end, and was solid against the run in his rookie season.

Competition will be strong at tackle. Carriker will contend for playing time along with La'Roi Glover, whom coaches would like to limit to 25-30 snaps a game, and second-year player Claude Wroten. Nose tackle Jimmy Kennedy was inconsistent at best, and enters the final year of his contract. Second-day picks Clifton Ryan (fifth round) and Keith Jackson (seventh) will also be in the mix.

RATING: 7

LINEBACKERS

Coaches insist that Will Witherspoon will remain at middle linebacker, and believe he will flourish in his second season there as a full-time starter because of familiarity and an improvement

Rams Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
49	Anelli, Mark (TE)	6-3	265	3	Wisconsin	0/0	FA 07	D6 SF 02	Spent 2006 on the practice squad and is a long shot to make the roster.
83	Bennett, Drew	6-5	206	7	UCLA	16/15	UFA,TENN 07	OFA TENN 01	One of the tallest receivers the Rams have had in years; should help in the red zone.
80	**Bruce, Isaac**	**6-0**	**188**	**14**	**Memphis State**	**16/15**	**D2 94**	**D2 RAMS 94**	**Rev. Ike just might play as long as Jerry Rice if the Rams let him.**
86	Byrd, Dominique (TE)	6-2	254	2	Southern Cal	5/0	D3 06	D3 STL 06	Has loads of ability, but needs maturity to play at the NFL level.
82	Hall, Dante (KR)	5-8	187	8	Texas A&M	15/0	T,KC 07	D5 KC 00	Rams are counting on him to ignite the return game and help field position.
81	**Holt, Torry**	**6-0**	**190**	**9**	**North Carolina State**	**16/16**	**D1 99**	**D1 STL 99**	**Quietly, he just puts up great numbers year after year.**
82	Klopfenstein, Joe (TE)	6-5	256	2	Colorado	16/16	D2 06	D2 STL 06	Held his own as a rookie, and now coaches hope he can learn from McMichael.
89	Looker, Dane	6-0	194	6	Washington	16/0	FA 02	OFA STL 00	Holds for kicker Jeff Wilkins, and is capable of contributing as a receiver if needed.
84	**McMichael, Randy (TE)**	**6-3**	**255**	**6**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**FA 07**	**D4 MIA 02**	**Rams jumped when Miami released him, adding another weapon for passing game.**
19	Stanley, Derek	5-11	179	R	Wisconsin-Whitewater	0/0	D7 07	D7 STL 07	There are those that believe he could be the surprise of the draft, but faces lots of competition.
87	Walker, Aaron (TE)	6-6	270	4	Florida	16/5	FA 05	D5 SF 03	Filled his role fine last season as a blocking tight end.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
70	**Barron, Alex (T)**	**6-7**	**315**	**3**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 STL 05**	**Should be better than he has played; just has to realize how talented he is.**
62	Fry, Dustin (C/G)	6-3	314	R	Clemson	0/0	D5 07	D5 STL 07	Coaches love his nastiness, and hope he plays well enough to win job as a backup.
72	Goldberg, Adam (G/T)	6-7	310	4	Wyoming	16/2	T,MINN 06	OFA MINN 03	Can play almost any position on line, providing much-needed insurance against injuries.
68	**Incognito, Richie (G)**	**6-3**	**305**	**2**	**Nebraska**	**16/16**	**D3 05**	**D3 STL 05**	**Started games at three positions last season, but should be right guard for a long time.**
67	***McCollum, Andy (C)**	**6-4**	**300**	**14**	**Toledo**	**1/1**	**UFA,NO 99**	**OFA CLV 94**	**Saw friend Adam Timmerman released, doesn't want that to happen to him.**
76	***Pace, Orlando (T)**	**6-7**	**325**	**11**	**Ohio State**	**8/8**	**D1 97**	**D1 STL 97**	**When healthy, remains one of the top left tackles in the game.**
64	Parquet, Jeremy (T)	6-6	321	2	Southern Mississippi	0/0	FA 06	D7 KC 05	Played in NFL Europa, but faces long odds to make the roster.
65	Romberg, Brett (C)	6-2	298	4	Miami	10/3	FA 06	OFA JAX 03	Got a taste of playing last season, and believes he will compete to be the starter.
66	**Setterstrom, Mark (G)**	**6-4**	**314**	**2**	**Minnesota**	**7/6**	**D7 06**	**D7 STL 06**	**Needs to improve pass blocking; looks like the left guard of present and future.**
69	Shackelford, Ken (T)	6-5	322	R	Georgia	0/0	D6 07	D6 STL 07	Second-day pick is probably headed to the practice squad if he shows anything.
79	Steussie, Todd (T/G)	6-6	310	14	California	16/15	UFA,TB 06	D1 MINN 94	Can swing between guard and tackle and gives coaches peace of mind.
75	*Terrell, Claude (G)	6-2	330	3	New Mexico	0/0	D4 05	D4 STL 05	Can be a factor if he applies himself and gets in shape after lost season.
RUNNING BACKS									
32	Alexis, Rich	6-0	213	1	Washington	1/0	FA 06	OFA JAX 04	His best hope is a spot on the practice squad.
33	Harris, Kay-Jay	6-0	229	2	West Virginia	7/0	FA 06	OFA MIA 05	Could win roster spot if he plays well on special teams.
44	**Hedgecock, Madison (FB)**	**6-3**	**266**	**3**	**North Carolina**	**16/9**	**D7 05**	**D7 STL 05**	**Good blocker and special-teams player; helped pave the way for Jackson's success.**
39	**Jackson, Steven**	**6-2**	**231**	**4**	**Oregon State**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 STL 04**	**He wants the ball more than ever, and he will likely get it.**
36	Leonard, Brian	6-1	226	R	Rutgers	0/0	D2 07	D2 STL 07	Some think he's too good to be true. Just a class person with ability and will to win.
22	Minor, Travis	5-10	203	7	Florida State	16/0	UFA,MIA 07	D3 MIA 01	Has experience, but will be battling Harris for No. 3 job.
QUARTERBACKS									
10	**Bulger, Marc**	**6-3**	**212**	**6**	**West Virginia**	**16/16**	**FA 01**	**D6 NO 00**	**Doesn't get the recognition he deserves, but will probably get a new contract.**
11	Fitzpatrick, Ryan	6-2	221	3	Harvard	1/0	D7 05	D7 STL 05	Has strong arm and can move around; should maintain No. 3 spot.
12	Frerotte, Gus	6-3	233	14	Tulsa	1/0	FA 06	D7 WSH 94	Comfortable as backup and capable of making plays if needed.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
94	Adeyanju, Victor (E)	6-4	270	2	Indiana	12/9	D4 06	D4 STL 06	Will probably never be top of the line pass rusher, but is effort guy against the run.
90	**Carriker, Adam (T)**	**6-6**	**296**	**R**	**Nebraska**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 STL 07**	**He is being counted on to help upgrade the team's porous run defense.**
97	Glover, La'Roi (T)	6-2	290	11	San Diego State	16/16	FA 06	D5 OAK 96	Played too many snaps last season, and just wore out. Can still make plays if used correctly.
96	***Hall, James (E)**	**6-2**	**280**	**8**	**Michigan**	**7/7**	**T,DET 07**	**OFA DET 00**	**Coming off shoulder surgery; counted on for pass rush from the right side.**
98	Jackson, Keith (T)	6-0	305	R	Michigan	0/0	D7 07	D7 STL 07	Somewhat undersized, but father was former NFL tight end of the same name, and might surprise.
95	Johnson, Trevor (E)	6-4	260	3	Nebraska	1/0	W,NO 07	D7 NYJ 04	Team is looking for a fourth end, and he could be in the competition.
73	**Kennedy, Jimmy (T)**	**6-4**	**325**	**5**	**Penn State**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 STL 03**	**Former 12th overall choice in make-or-break year, with contract expiring.**
91	**Little, Leonard (E)**	**6-3**	**263**	**9**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**D3 98**	**D2 STL 98**	**One of league's elite pass rushers; will be helped by Hall's presence on the right side.**
92	Moore, Eric (E)	6-4	268	3	Florida State	7/0	FA 06	D6 NYG 05	Has bounced around league, unable to put a consistent game together.
93	Ryan, Clifton (T)	6-3	310	R	Michigan State	0/0	D5 07	D5 STL 07	Defense needs help on the nose, and the stout Ryan could be the one to provide it.
71	Sandidge, Tim (T)	6-1	300	1	Virginia Tech	0/0	W,KC 07	OFA STL 06	Had better chance of competing prior to team drafting three defensive tackles.
99	Wroten, Claude (T)	6-2	295	2	Louisiana State	15/0	D3 06	D3 STL 06	Has tremendous ability; second season should begin to show progress.
LINEBACKERS									
57	Alston, Jon (O/S)	6-0	221	2	Stanford	3/0	D3 06	D3 STL 06	Full off-season program should help excellent athlete make big strides after idle rookie season.
54	**Chillar, Brandon (O)**	**6-3**	**242**	**4**	**UCLA**	**16/15**	**D4 04**	**D4 STL 04**	**Solid, if not spectacular, on the strong side; might have to fend off Draft.**
52	Draft, Chris	5-11	232	9	Stanford	16/16	UFA,CARO 07	D6 CHI 98	Can play anywhere on line, and usually does. Might challenge Chillar for starting spot.
56	Smith, Raonall (O)	6-2	245	6	Washington State	16/0	UFA,MINN 06	D2 MINN 02	Good on special teams, and made plays in 3-4 pass defense as rush end.
50	***Tinoisamoa, Pisa (O)**	**6-1**	**235**	**5**	**Hawaii**	**11/11**	**D2 03**	**D2 STL 03**	**Great work ethic and leader, but has to show he can stay healthy.**
51	**Witherspoon, Will (M)**	**6-1**	**234**	**6**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**UFA,CARO 06**	**D3 CARO 02**	**Rams paid large contract for him and expect to reap the dividends in 2007.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
21	**Atogwe, Oshiomogho (S)**	**5-11**	**210**	**3**	**Stanford**	**16/16**	**D3 05**	**D3 STL 05**	**In first year as starter, established himself as a play-maker.**
24	Bartell, Ron (CB)	6-1	200	3	Howard	16/0	D2 05	D2 STL 05	Showed versatility as corner and safety, plus is learning the slot role in the nickel.
34	**Brown, Fakhir (CB)**	**5-11**	**192**	**8**	**Grambling**	**14/14**	**UFA,NO 06**	**OFA SD 99**	**Supports the run and is solid in pass coverage, but will be 30 in September.**
23	Butler, Jerametrius (CB)	5-10	185	7	Kansas State	6/0	D5 01	D5 STL 01	Hardly played in 2006, and was absent from off-season workouts.
42	Carter, Jerome (S)	5-11	219	3	Florida State	14/0	D4 05	D4 STL 05	Not the hitter the Rams expected, but has improved and is solid role player in secondary.
25	**Chavous, Corey (S)**	**6-1**	**208**	**10**	**Vanderbilt**	**16/16**	**UFA,MINN 06**	**D2 ARIZ 98**	**Leader of the secondary, helped younger players, a solid performer.**
26	**Hill, Tye (CB)**	**5-10**	**185**	**2**	**Clemson**	**16/10**	**D1 06**	**D1 STL 06**	**Will be long-term starter, and should emerge as one of the best cover corners in league.**
35	Johnson, Todd (S)	6-1	200	5	Florida	12/6	UFA,CHI 07	D4 CHI 03	Provides quality depth on the back line, and adds excellence to special teams.
31	Rumph, Mike (CB)	6-2	206	6	Miami	7/0	FA 07	D1 SF 02	Has bombed as former first-round pick; trying to resurrect career in St. Louis.
37	Wade, Jonathan (CB)	5-10	195	R	Tennessee	0/0	D3 07	D3 STL 07	Has great athletic skills; with coaching, can rid his game of inconsistency.
27	Walls, Lenny (CB)	6-4	192	6	Boston College	16/2	UFA,KC 07	OFA DEN 02	Tall corner who Rams hope can help with matchup issues in pass defense.
SPECIALISTS									
5	Jones, Donnie (P)	6-3	222	4	Louisiana State	16/0	RFA,MIA 07	D7 SEA 01	Under five-year contract, team hopes they don't have to worry about a punter for a while.
45	Massey, Chris (LS/FB)	6-0	245	6	Marshall	16/0	D7 02	D7 STL 02	Had one bad snap in 2006, his only one in 80 regular-season games.
14	Wilkins, Jeff (K)	6-2	205	14	Youngstown State	16/0	FA 97	OFA DALL 94	One of the game's best, there's a reason his coaches call him "Money."

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Lamart Barrett (North Carolina State), Nate Morton (Wake Forest), Shaine Smith (Hofstra), Dominique Thompson (1, William & Mary), Markee White (Texas State-San Marcos); TE Steve Buches (Pittsburgh); OTs Chris Messner (Oklahoma), Drew Strojny (1, Duke); OGs Stanley Daniels (Washington), David Thompson (Massachusetts); RBs Robert Hubbard (Nevada), John David Washington (1, Morehouse); FB Brad Lau (Boise State); QB Drew Tate (Iowa); DEs Alton Pettway (Albany State, Ga.), Ryan Willis (Louisiana State); LBs Quinton Culberson (Mississippi State), Tim McGarigle (1, Northwestern), Kevin McLee (West Virginia); CBs Josh Lay (1, Pittsburgh), Terrance Reaves (Villanova), Darius Vinnett (Arkansas); Ss Jeffrey Dukes (Alabama), Andre Kirkland (Kent State); PK Kevin Lovell (Cincinnati); P Fred Capshaw (1, Miami)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Marc Bulger to finally be noticed. All Bulger does is put up big yards, yet he is rarely noticed by anyone outside St. Louis, partly because the Rams haven't won a lot with him. He'll get some headlines when he signs a new contrac.

*Young defenders to improve. The Rams made minimal veteran additions to the defense in the offseason, so it will be up to their youth to take hold. If they can't, it could be another long season for the defense.

*Steven Jackson to be the workhorse again. Coaches will try to lessen his load somewhat, but Jackson believes he thrives on work and wants the ball as much as possible. The addition of tight end Randy McMichael should help cut down from the 90 receptions Jackson had last season.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Will Witherspoon

Coach Scott Linehan has continually answered the question throughout the off-season of those that believe the Rams need a better middle linebacker and that Will Witherspoon would be better served on the outside.

Signed as a free agent last year, Witherspoon played his first full season inside. Linehan and defensive coordinator Jim Haslett love how Witherspoon can go sideline to sideline in the middle and make plays, as opposed to the outside where he would be limited to one side of the field.

In addition, the Rams have invested large contracts in Witherspoon and weakside starter Pisa Tinoisamoa, making it imprudent to invest big money in another linebacker that would come off the field on passing downs.

Linehan said Witherspoon ranked in the top 10 in the league in tackles among middle linebackers.

"One thing about putting him in the middle, he's able to be a more productive tackler for us," Linehan said. "It'd be hard for me to believe he's not going to be a lot better (this) year."

That was after being very good in 2006. It will be up to Witherspoon to prove to the critics that the Rams' coaches are right.

at defensive tackle, which should help keep blockers away from him. Tinoisamoa had shoulder problems in 2006, but had off-season surgery and will man the weak side. Brandon Chillar enters training camp as the strong-side starter, but could be challenged by versatile free-agent pickup Chris Draft.

Raonall Smith will also compete for a backup job along with Jon Alston, who is expected to make an impact in his second season.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

The pass defense ranked a respectable eighth in the league last season, and should be better, although teams didn't pass that much because they were so successful running. Tye Hill, a first-round pick in 2006, now enters his second season confident, experienced and with the short-term memory issues cornerbacks have to possess. Fakhir Brown is solid as the other starter, but the real competition will be for the nickel and dime roles between Ronald Bartell, third-round pick Jonathan Wade, and veteran additions Lenny Walls and Mike Rumph.

Free safety Oshiomogho Atogwe made great progress in his second season, and had three interceptions, while veteran Corey Chavous was his usual solid self. Jerome Carter and former Bear Todd Johnson provide depth.

RATING: 6.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

There was virtual dancing in the streets when the Rams acquired kick returner Dante Hall from the Chiefs for a fifth-round pick just before the draft. Hall's production has dropped from his four-touchdown season in 2003, but he is a clear upgrade to a return game that has been woeful since the days of Tony Horne and Az-Zahir Hakim. Rams coaches believe concentrating on returns and not playing much as a receiver will help his production. Kicker Jeff Wilkins remains one of the best in the game, and has made an astounding 15 of 17 field-goal attempts from at least 50 yards since 2003.

Punter Donnie Jones was secured for five years when the Dolphins did not match the Rams' restricted free-agent offer sheet. Long snapper Chris Massey is as consistent as any snapper in the league.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

Without a lot of splash this year, Linehan has methodically filled many of the holes on the roster. There is still work to be done, but he seems settled in as a second-year coach and has gotten comfortable delegating.

RATING: Plus 1

— Howard Balzer

2006 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 10	DENVER	18-10
Sep. 17	at San Francisco	13-20
Sep. 24	at Arizona	16-14
Oct. 1	DETROIT	41-34
Oct. 8	at Green Bay	23-20
Oct. 15	SEATTLE	28-30
Oct. 22	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	at San Diego	24-38
Nov. 5	KANSAS CITY	17-31
Nov. 12	at Seattle	22-24
Nov. 19	at Carolina	0-15
Nov. 26	SAN FRANCISCO	20-17
Dec. 3	ARIZONA	20-34
Dec. 11	CHICAGO	27-42
Dec. 17	at Oakland	20- 0
Dec. 24	WASHINGTON (OT)	37-31
Dec. 31	at Minnesota	41-21

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 10	at Minnesota (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 18	SAN DIEGO (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 24	at Oakland (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 30	KANSAS CITY (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	CAROLINA	12:00
Sep. 16	SAN FRANCISCO	12:00
Sep. 23	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Sep. 30	at Dallas	12:00
Oct. 7	ARIZONA	12:00
Oct. 14	at Baltimore	1:00
Oct. 21	at Seattle	1:15
Oct. 28	CLEVELAND	12:00
Nov. 4	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 11	at New Orleans	12:00
Nov. 18	at San Francisco	1:15
Nov. 25	SEATTLE	12:00
Dec. 2	ATLANTA	12:00
Dec. 9	at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 16	GREEN BAY	12:00
Dec. 20	PITTSBURGH (Thu.)	7:15
Dec. 30	at Arizona	2:15

AT A GLANCE

4949 Centennial Boulevard
Santa Clara, CA 95054
(408) 562-4949

TRAINING CAMP:
49ers Facility, Santa Clara, CA

COACH:
Mike Nolan, 3rd year with 49ers and as NFL head coach (11-21)

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Lal Heneghan

VICE PRESIDENT PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Scot McCloughan

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Paraag Marathe

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION:
Terry Tumey

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
David McCloughan

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Tom Gamble

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Jim Hostler	Offensive coordinator	7	3
Frank Cignetti	Quarterbacks	4	1
George Warhop	Offensive line	12	3
Jerry Sullivan	@Receivers	16	3
Bishop Harris	Running backs	11	3
Pete Hoener	Tight ends	9	3
Mark Nori	Offensive assistant/OL	1	1
Greg Manusky	Defensive coordinator	7	1
Jim Tomsula	Defensive line	1	1
Mike Singletary	*Linebackers	5	3
Johnnie Lynn	Secondary	14	2
Vance Joseph	Assistant secondary	3	3
Jason Tarver	Defensive. asst./OLB	7	7
Al Everest	Special teams coor.	11	1
Jeff Rodgers	Special teams assistant	5	5
Johnny Parker	Strength and Conditioning	19	3
Duane Carlisle	Strength and Conditioning	3	3

*Assistant head coach @Senior assistant

49ers Have Playoffs on Their Mind

The 49ers are in the midst of a franchise-long stretch of four consecutive losing seasons, but they have set their goal far beyond the .500 mark.

"It will be a disappointment to me if we don't make the playoffs," coach Mike Nolan said.

Veteran cornerback Walt Harris took it a step further when asked about the team's post-season hopes. "That's the minimum," he said. "Our goal is to win the division and the Super Bowl. That's our thinking. We definitely have the guys here to do that."

The 49ers compiled a surprising 7-9 record last season after spending the previous two years rebuilding a neglected roster by focusing on offense. This off-season, the 49ers invested nearly $40 million in guaranteed money and two-thirds of their draft class to overhaul the defense.

The centerpiece of the redesign is cornerback Nate Clements. They also spent their top draft pick to land dynamic inside linebacker Patrick Willis with the No. 11 overall selection.

COACHING

Nolan's first two offensive coordinators, Mike McCarthy and Norv Turner, were plucked off his staff for head coaching positions. Assistant head coach Mike Singletary is likely to become a head coach soon. But the performance of this staff will be defined by its two first-time coordinators.

Jim Hostler was promoted to run the offense after two years as quarterbacks coach. He will continue to run the Don Coryell offense that Turner installed during his only season with the club.

Former Chargers linebackers coach Greg Manusky takes on the task of shepherding the 49ers' transition to a 3-4 defense on a full-time basis. Nolan fired Billy Davis as coordinator after two seasons in which he found himself being more involved in the defense than he had originally planned.

Nolan's vision for building the team has been astute, though some of his game-management decisions have been called into question.

RATING: 7

QUARTERBACKS

When the 49ers were trying to decide what to do with disruptive receiver Antonio Bryant, there were conversations within the organization that they might just keep him around. The thinking was that at some point quarterback Alex Smith would have to stand up in a meeting and put Bryant in his place, thus earning the respect of his teammates.

But Smith has made such remarkable strides on the field and as a leader that the 49ers decided no such confrontation was needed for him to win the locker room. At 23, Smith has already started 23 games. During his first two seasons, Smith strived to be a game manager. This season he should get more comfortable with the idea of helping the 49ers win games. Smith became the first quarterback in club history to take every snap during a season, as he posted a respectable passer rating of 74.8.

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
CB Nate Clements

Nate Clements signed a lucrative contract with the 49ers, and they expect him to be a shutdown corner on a defense that has ranked in the lower half of the league the past nine seasons.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Tully Banta-Cain, LB Colby Bockwoldt, DT Aubrayo Franklin, WR Darrell Jackson, WR Ashley Lelie, S Michael Lewis

KEY LOSS:
TE Eric Johnson (13/9)*
Backup tight end Eric Johnson is the only player the 49ers attempted to re-sign who left the club. The 49ers wanted Johnson to stick around to be a good influence on '06 first-round pick Vernon Davis.

OTHER LOSSES
DT Anthony Adams (14/5), S Mike Adams (16/8), WR Antonio Bryant (14/13), S Deke Cooper (1/0), CB Sammy Davis (13/1), LB Jay Foreman (2/0), FB Chris Hetherington (3/2), DT Lance Legree (0/0), C Jeremy Newberry (0/0), LB T.J. Slaughter (10/1), LB Andre Torrey (0/0), S Chad Williams (15/1)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 9 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

Veteran Trent Dilfer serves as Smith's backup, but he also fulfills a valuable role as a mentor to the youngster.

RATING: 6.5

RUNNING BACKS

One year after a national sports publication called him the most overrated player in the draft, Frank Gore turned into one of the league's premier running backs. Gore became the first 49ers running back to lead the conference in rushing. He gained a club-record 1,695 yards and his 5.4-yards-per-carry average ranked behind only Barry Sanders (twice), O.J. Simpson (twice), Eric Dickerson and Walter Payton among players with 300 or more rushes in a season.

The day after the season, Gore stated his goal for 2007 was to break Dickerson's single-season rushing record of 2,105 yards (1984). But don't expect that to happen, if Nolan sticks to his plan. After signing Gore to a contract extension through the 2011 season, Nolan said he would like to get Gore fewer carries to prevent wearing him down. The 49ers would like backups Michael Robinson and Maurice Hicks to step up to take some of the pressure off Gore.

Gore is a tough, strong runner with a low center of gravity. The only blemishes in his game last season were his six lost fumbles. But he also led the 49ers with 61 receptions. Gore owes a debt of gratitude to fullback Moran Norris, who had an exceptional season as a lead-blocker after working his way into the lineup to start the final 14 games.

RATING: 9

RECEIVERS

If you ask receiver Darrell Jackson, the balance of power in the NFC West might have shifted with the trade that sent him to the 49ers from Seattle for a fourth-round draft pick. "With me bringing my stats and ability here, it might put us over the (top)," Jackson said.

Jackson, who led the Seahawks in receiving four of his seven seasons with the club, is expected to supplant Arnaz Battle in the starting lineup. Battle and Bryant, who was cut in the off-season, were the starters a year ago.

The 49ers added Ashley Lelie in free agency, and he is expected to compete with third-round draft pick Jason Hill for the starting job at split end. The 49ers already have much better depth at receiver than they've had in a while.

The 49ers expect to receive major contributions from tight end Vernon Davis, the No. 6 overall pick in '06. He missed half the starts a year ago with a broken leg, but showed his unique blend of size (253 pounds) and speed can create mismatches in coverage.

RATING: 7.5

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The 49ers have paid particular attention to the offensive line in recent seasons, and that approach showed itself again on draft day with the trade into the first round to land tackle Joe Staley of Central Michigan. Staley will have a difficult time cracking the starting lineup as a rookie, as the 49ers already have Jonas Jennings at left tackle, as well as Kwame Harris and Adam Snyder at right tackle.

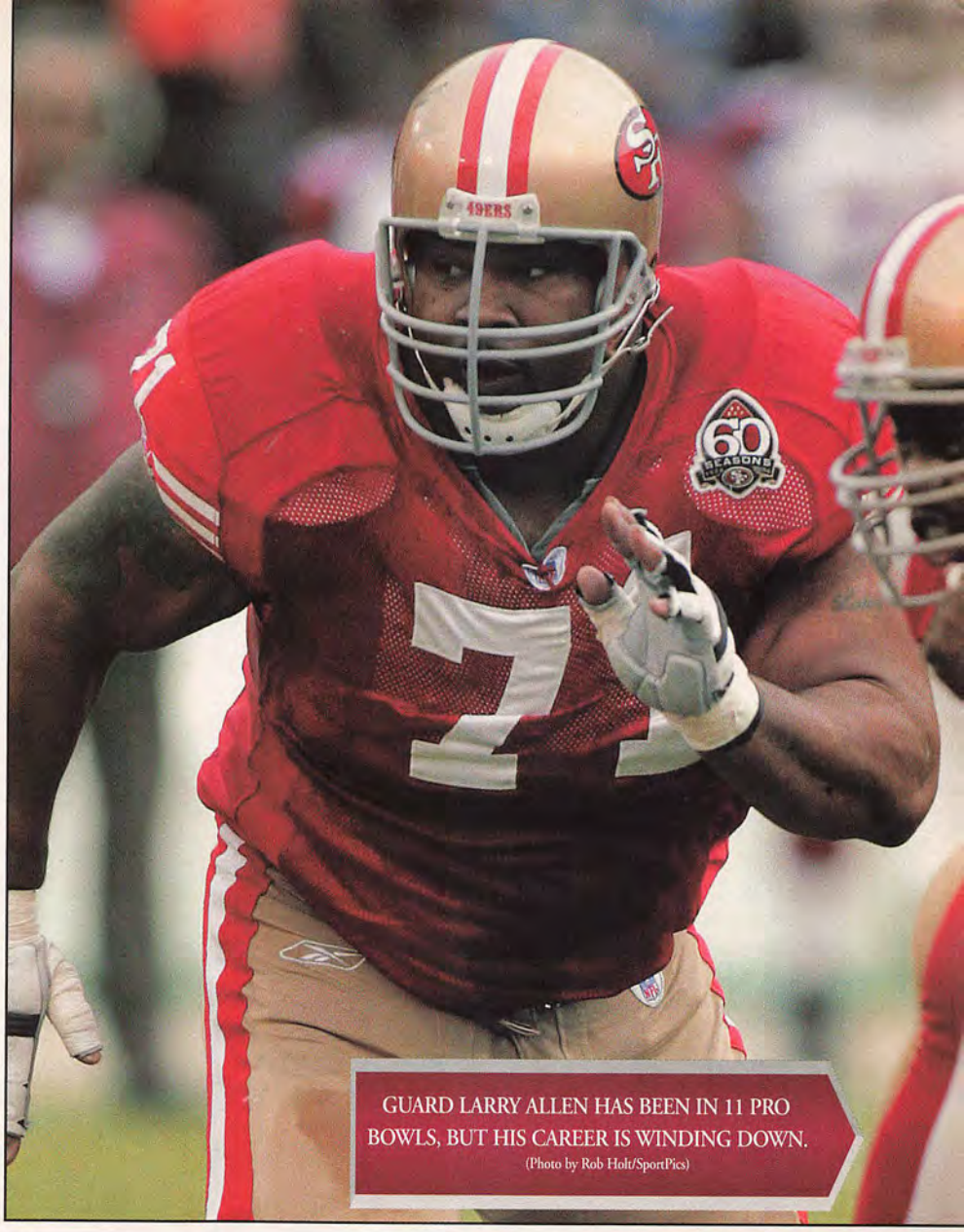
Eleven-time Pro Bowl selection Larry Allen returns at left guard for a 14th — and possibly final — NFL season. Eric Heitmann returns from a broken leg after a strong season in his first full year as the starter at center. Justin Smiley, the subject of off-season trade talks, played well at right guard last season, but might run into some competition from David Baas and Tony Wragge.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

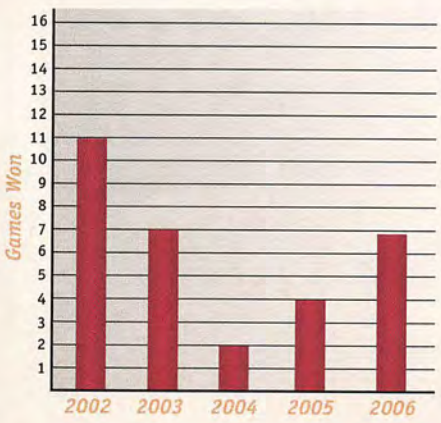
The 49ers' transition to a 3-4 defense has the team looking for a different type of defensive lineman. They aren't seeking the penetrating type of performer, as much as a big body who holds his ground and ties up blockers.

Defensive end Bryant Young returns in what the 49ers hope will be a reduced role, as the club wants



GUARD LARRY ALLEN HAS BEEN IN 11 PRO BOWLS, BUT HIS CAREER IS WINDING DOWN.
(Photo by Rob Holt/SportPics)

WINS PER YEAR



**** Made Playoffs: 2002***

49ers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
47	Bajema, Billy (TE)	6-4	255	3	Oklahoma State	16/6	D7 05	D7 SF 05	Big-time run blocker was a target on just one incomplete pass all season.
83	Battle, Arnaz	6-1	206	5	Notre Dame	16/15	D6 03	D6 SF 03	Will be in battle to maintain job after impressive 23 third-down catches.
85	**Davis, Vernon (TE)**	**6-3**	**253**	**2**	**Maryland**	**10/8**	**D1 06**	**D1 SF 06**	**Had a few dropped passes as rookie, but future is promising for big talent.**
84	Gilmore, Bryan	6-1	193	7	Midwestern State	16/3	UFA,MIA 06	OFA ARIZ 00	Third wideout a year ago played in all 16 games, but managed only eight catches.
89	Hill, Jason	6-1	204	R	Washington State	0/0	D3 07	D3 SF 07	Exhibited great speed at combine and was miffed he did not go sooner in draft.
82	**Jackson, Darrell**	**6-1**	**201**	**8**	**Florida**	**13/13**	**T,SEA 07**	**D3 SEA 00**	**Rare intra-division trade nets receiver from rival Seahawks at small cost.**
88	Jacobs, Taylor	6-1	202	5	Florida	8/0	T,WSH 06	D2 WSH 03	Has never lived up to expectations after entering league four years ago.
82	**Lelie, Ashley**	**6-3**	**200**	**6**	**Hawaii**	**15/10**	**UFA,ATL 07**	**D1 DEN 02**	**Signed him early in free agency to provide passing game with deep threat.**
19	Maxwell, Marcus	6-4	205	2	Oregon	0/0	FA 07	D7 SF 05	Has one final chance to make an impact after spending spring in NFL Europa.
46	Walker, Delanie (TE)	6-1	237	2	Central Missouri State	7/1	D6 06	D6 SF 06	Converted small-college wideout can team with Davis in two-tight end formations.
81	Williams, Brandon	5-11	175	2	Wisconsin	13/0	D3 06	D3 SF 06	Has eye on slot role, but contributions probably limited to punt returns.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
71	**Allen, Larry (G)**	**6-3**	**325**	**14**	**Sonoma State**	**11/11**	**FA 06**	**D2 DALL 94**	**Future Hall of Famer has not lost a whole lot of his run-blocking skills.**
64	Baas, David (G/C)	6-4	312	3	Michigan	16/0	D2 05	D2 SF 05	Has not played much his first two seasons, but team confident he'll emerge.
76	Dahl, Harvey (T)	6-5	305	2	Nevada	4/0	FA 05	OFA DALL 05	Turned heads in training camp a year ago with his spirited fight for spot.
63	Duckett, Damane (T)	6-6	300	4	East Carolina	6/0	FA 06	OFA CARO 04	After playing six games on defense, club figured best hope was on offense.
78	Estes, Patrick (T)	6-7	283	3	Virginia	1/0	D7 05	D7 SF 05	With improved talent on line, he'll have to take next step to stick around.
77	**Harris, Kwame (T)**	**6-7**	**306**	**5**	**Stanford**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 SF 03**	**Terrific run-blocker, but Mike Nolan has called his pass protection "soft."**
66	***Heitmann, Eric (C/G)**	**6-3**	**307**	**6**	**Stanford**	**14/14**	**D7 02**	**D7 SF 02**	**Excelled in first complete season at center until season-ending broken leg.**
75	**Jennings, Jonas (T)**	**6-3**	**323**	**7**	**Georgia**	**13/13**	**UFA,BUFF 05**	**D3 BUFF 01**	**Has missed all or parts of 20 games with injuries since free-agent signing in 2005.**
65	**Smiley, Justin (G)**	**6-3**	**300**	**4**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**D2 04**	**D2 SF 04**	**Athletic guard might not have great size, but is adept on movement plays.**
68	Snyder, Adam (T/G)	6-6	312	3	Oregon	14/6	D3 05	D3 SF 05	Has worked at both tackle positions, but long-term home could be at guard.
74	Staley, Joe (T)	6-5	306	R	Central Michigan	0/0	D1 07	D1 SF 07	Could start out on right side, but eventually could be solid left tackle.
62	Steitz, Nick (G)	6-1	300	1	Oregon	0/0	FA 06	OFA NO 05	Inactive for final two games after joining squad when Heitmann went down.
69	Wragge, Tony (G)	6-4	320	3	New Mexico State	14/4	FA 05	OFA ARIZ 02	Leap-frogged Baas on depth chart to earn four starts at guard and center.
RUNNING BACKS									
35	Clayton, Thomas	6-2	205	R	Kansas State	0/0	D6 07	D6 SF 07	Former top prep recruit is still fresh after a lot of sitting in college.
21	**Gore, Frank**	**5-9**	**215**	**3**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D3 05**	**D3 SF 05**	**In addition to team-record rushing totals, also led 49ers with 61 catches.**
43	Hicks, Maurice	5-11	196	5	North Carolina A&T	16/0	FA 04	OFA CHI 02	Team's salary-cap cushion kept others from pursuing him as restricted free agent.
44	**Norris, Moran (FB)**	**6-2**	**250**	**7**	**Kansas**	**14/7**	**FA 06**	**D4 NO 01**	**Rarely touched the ball, but was big part of Gore's success as lead blocker.**
24	Robinson, Michael	6-1	218	2	Penn State	16/0	D4 06	D4 SF 06	Converted quarterback has a chance to develop into top reliable substitute for Gore.
QUARTERBACKS									
12	Dilfer, Trent	6-4	234	14	Fresno State	0/0	T,CLV 06	D1 TB 94	Did not take a snap all season, but served valuable role as Smith's mentor.
13	Hill, Shaun	6-3	226	6	Maryland	0/0	FA 06	OFA MINN 02	"Moonlight" Graham of NFL has appeared in one game, never attempted pass.
11	**Smith, Alex**	**6-4**	**210**	**3**	**Utah**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 SF 05**	**Offense remains the same, but he has his third coordinator in three years.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
76	Cohen, Joe (T)	6-2	295	R	Florida	0/0	D4 07	D4 SF 07	Just like college, his role is to perform dirty work of clogging middle.
94	Douglas, Marques (T)	6-2	286	7	Howard	16/16	UFA,BLT 05	OFA BLT 99	Tops among 49ers linemen with 75 tackles and better-suited to 3-4 scheme.
93	***Fields, Ronald (E)**	**6-2**	**310**	**3**	**Mississippi State**	**13/9**	**D5 05**	**D5 SF 05**	**Made big strides in '06 until sustaining a season-ending broken arm late.**
92	**Franklin, Aubrayo (NT)**	**6-1**	**320**	**5**	**Tennessee**	**14/0**	**UFA,BLT 07**	**D5 BLT 03**	**Though a backup with Ravens, figures to fill important role as nose tackle.**
54	Green, Roderick (E)	6-2	245	4	Central Missouri State	9/0	FA 06	D5 BLT 04	Showed pass-rush skills, besting Seattle's Walter Jones for a couple sacks.
91	McDonald, Ray (E)	6-3	276	R	Florida	0/0	D3 07	D3 SF 07	His knee is a problem, but 49ers could not pass him up in the third round.
96	Oliver, Melvin (E)	6-3	279	2	Louisiana State	16/14	D6 06	D6 SF 06	Surprised coaching staff with his quick development and earned 14 starts.
90	Sopoaga, Isaac (T)	6-2	332	4	Hawaii	15/2	D4 04	D4 SF 04	Mid-year benching aimed to get him to play with more urgency did the trick.
97	**Young, Bryant (E)**	**6-3**	**297**	**14**	**Notre Dame**	**16/16**	**D1 94**	**D1 SF 94**	**Respected leader was a rookie in 1994 when 49ers last won a Super Bowl title.**
LINEBACKERS									
95	**Banta-Cain, Tully (O)**	**6-2**	**250**	**5**	**California**	**16/5**	**UFA,NE 07**	**D7 NE 03**	**After starting five games last season with Pats, he's main guy with 49ers.**
57	Bockwoldt, Colby (O)	6-2	237	4	Brigham Young	16/1	FA 07	D7 NO 04	Former full-time starter with Saints fits in as backup and special-teamer.
98	*Haralson, Parys (O)	6-1	250	2	Tennessee	7/0	D5 06	D5 SF 06	Pass-rush specialist wasn't healthy long enough as rookie to make impact.
99	**Lawson, Manny (O)**	**6-5**	**240**	**2**	**North Carolina State**	**16/11**	**D1 06**	**D1 SF 06**	**Showed rare athletic ability in first season, as he honed coverage skills.**
56	**Moore, Brandon (I)**	**6-1**	**246**	**6**	**Oklahoma**	**16/11**	**FA 02**	**OFA SF 02**	**When he took over at inside linebacker, many questioned why it took so long.**
58	Moore, Jay (O)	6-4	274	R	Nebraska	0/0	D4 07	D4 SF 07	College defensive end will probably drop a few pounds to help him on drops.
55	Navies, Hannibal (O)	6-3	252	9	Colorado	6/3	FA 06	D4 CARO 99	Injuries led to his signing for final six games, of which he started three.
50	Smith, Derek (I)	6-2	237	11	Arizona State	13/12	UFA,WSH 01	D3 WSH 97	After down season caused by eye-muscle strain, he's up against top rookie.
53	Ulbrich, Jeff (O)	6-0	240	7	Hawaii	16/9	D3 00	D3 SF 00	Asked for increased role on special teams after being demoted as starter.
52	**Willis, Patrick (I)**	**6-1**	**242**	**R**	**Mississippi**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 SF 07**	**After impressive week at Senior Bowl, coaching staff wanted him with 49ers.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
25	Brown, Tarell (CB)	5-11	192	R	Texas	0/0	D5 07	D5 SF 07	Nolan drafted him, noting "good character," even after two recent arrests.
22	**Clements, Nate (CB)**	**6-0**	**209**	**7**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**UFA,BUFF 07**	**D1 BUFF 01**	**When free agency began, 49ers made aggressive move to acquire top corner.**
38	Goldson, Dashon (S)	6-2	205	R	Washington	0/0	D4 07	D4 SF 07	Best-suited at safety after gaining vast experience at corner in college.
27	**Harris, Walt (CB)**	**5-11**	**192**	**12**	**Mississippi State**	**15/15**	**FA 06**	**D1 CHI 96**	**Credits knowledge and training habits for playing best ball of his career.**
23	Hudson, Marcus (S)	6-2	200	2	North Carolina State	16/0	D6 06	D6 SF 06	Saw limited time as rookie, but made some critical mistakes at cornerback.
28	Lewis, Keith (S)	6-0	210	4	Oregon	16/9	D6 04	D6 SF 04	Hard-hitting, aggressive approach was what defense needed with promotion.
32	**Lewis, Michael (S)**	**6-1**	**222**	**6**	**Colorado**	**14/6**	**UFA,PHA 07**	**D2 PHA 02**	**Key pickup; team not scared by his reduction in playing time with Eagles.**
26	**Roman, Mark (S)**	**5-11**	**201**	**8**	**Louisiana State**	**16/11**	**FA 06**	**D2 CIN 00**	**Beat out vet Tony Parrish for free-safety spot and figures to hold onto it.**
36	Spencer, Shawntae (CB)	6-1	179	4	Pittsburgh	13/13	D2 04	D2 SF 04	After team strengthened secondary, best fit now might be as third corner.
30	*Strickland, Donald (CB)	5-10	187	5	Colorado	3/3	FA 07	D3 IND 03	Native of San Francisco showed enough in short stint last year to get another look.
22	Tucker, B.J. (CB)	5-10	188	2	Wisconsin	4/1	FA 06	D6 DALL 03	Played four times, pressed into starting role for one game due to injuries.
32	*Vaughn, Vickiel (S)	6-1	204	2	Arkansas	0/0	D7 06	D7 SF 06	Probably would've been cut as a rookie, but placed on injured reserve with finger injury.
SPECIALISTS									
86	Jennings, Brian (LS/TE)	6-5	233	7	Arizona State	16/0	D7 00	D7 SF 00	Eccentric off the field, he's created art form of going unnoticed on field.
4	Lee, Andy (P)	6-0	183	3	Pittsburgh	16/0	D6 04	D6 SF 04	At this rate of improvement, he has a chance to become one of NFL's best.
6	Nedney, Joe (K)	6-5	235	11	San Jose State	16/0	FA 05	OFA GB 95	After six teams in first nine years, he's finally found place to call home.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs C.J. Brewer (1, Wyoming), Dominique Zeigler (Baylor); TE Zac Herold (Nebraska-Omaha); OT Tavares Washington (1, Florida); G/T Sean Estrada (Penn); QB Luke Getsy (Akron); FB Zak Keasey (1, Princeton); DEs Zach Anderson (Louisville), Darius Sanders (Oregon), John Syptak (1, Rice); LB Steve Dildine (Washington State); S Jermaine Hardy (1, Virginia); CB Sammy Joseph (Louisiana State); PK MacKenzie Hoambrecker (1, Northern Iowa); P Ken Parrish (East Stroudsburg)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*After talking about it for four consecutive seasons, the 49ers this year will make a full-time conversion to a 3-4 scheme. The 49ers added nose tackle Aubrayo Franklin and outside linebacker Tully Banta-Cain to give them the personnel to make the switch.

*More balance on offense. The 49ers were a run-oriented team a year ago behind Frank Gore's 1,695 yards. New offensive coordinator Jim Hostler likes the run game, but he also wants to see quarterback Alex Smith give the team more production from the passing attack.

*Defensive lineman Bryant Young considered retirement before committing to a 13th NFL season. Young played far more than the 49ers wanted a year ago because of a lack of depth. This season, they expect a reduced role for Young as part of a rotation on the line.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Alex Smith

Since selecting quarterback Alex Smith with the No. 1 overall pick of the 2005 draft, coach Mike Nolan has been careful to avoid putting too much pressure on the youngster. Now, Smith appears willing to place himself on the hot seat.

Smith showed vast improvement in his second NFL season, as he threw 16 touchdowns and 16 interceptions while posting a passer rating of 74.8. In short, he showed plenty of promise after struggling as a rookie. Smith's encouraging second season came under the tutelage of coordinator Norv Turner, who left after one season to become Chargers head coach.

"He told me that I don't need him anymore," Smith said. "Last year was a big step for us. And now it's time to take the next step. A lot of that falls on my shoulders now."

Although he is just 23, Smith has an easy manner in the locker room. He has quickly become a leader among his offensive teammates. But in order for the 49ers to emerge this season as legitimate playoff contenders, Smith will have to give the offense a threat in the passing game to complement what they already have with Frank Gore and the rushing attack.

to find others capable of rotating into the action with him. Marques Douglas, Ronald Fields, Melvin Oliver and rookie Ray McDonald are also slated to play defensive end.

Free-agent pickup Aubrayo Franklin will start at nose tackle, with Isaac Sopoaga and rookie Joe Cohen battling for playing time behind him.

RATING: 6

LINEBACKERS

The 49ers spent a first-round pick on a linebacker for the second consecutive year, as Willis is likely to take over for veteran Derek Smith at an inside spot. Brandon Moore looks to be the starter at the other inside spot after he put together a strong season after moving into the lineup at the midpoint in the season. Moore led the team with 114 tackles and 6.5 sacks.

Manny Lawson, a first-round pick in '06, is back on the outside and is likely to show more of a pass-rush mentality with a stronger cast around him. Free-agent pickup Tully Banta-Cain will get after the quarterback from the other side. Roderick Green, Parys Haralson and rookie Jay Moore also have pass-rush ability at outside linebacker.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

The 49ers did a fine job of strengthening a unit on their team that has struggled for nearly a decade. Clements is a shutdown cornerback to play opposite Walt Harris, who recorded eight interceptions and was named to the Pro Bowl last season. Shawntae Spencer and rookie Tarell Brown give the 49ers four solid corners.

Free agent Michael Lewis was an early target of the 49ers in free agency. He will team with steady Mark Roman. Keith Lewis did an admirable job as a starter, but he returns to being one of the core special-teams players.

RATING: 8

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Andy Lee is a three-year vet who navigated the winds at Candlestick Point better than any 49ers punter since the team moved to the stadium in 1971. Veteran Joe Nedney is losing some leg strength, but his accuracy is better than ever. He also is adept at surprising opponents with onside kicks. Long snapper Brian Jennings might be the best in the game. The 49ers would like to get more out of the return game, especially punt returner Brandon Williams, who at least proved to be sure-handed as a rookie.

RATING: 7.5

INTANGIBLES

The players have completely bought into Nolan's approach. There are powerful vibes within the locker room that the 49ers are on the verge of establishing themselves as one of the top teams in the league.

RATING: Plus +1

— Matt Maiocco

2006 RESULTS

Record: 7-9

Sep. 10	at Arizona	27-34
Sep. 17	ST. LOUIS	20-13
Sep. 24	PHILADELPHIA	24-38
Oct. 1	at Kansas City	0-41
Oct. 8	OAKLAND	34-20
Oct. 15	SAN DIEGO	19-48
Oct. 22	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	at Chicago	10-41
Nov. 5	MINNESOTA	9- 3
Nov. 12	at Detroit	19-13
Nov. 19	SEATTLE	20-14
Nov. 26	at St. Louis	17-20
Dec. 3	at New Orleans	10-34
Dec. 10	GREEN BAY	9-30
Dec. 14	at Seattle	24-14
Dec. 24	ARIZONA	20-26
Dec. 31	at Denver (OT)	26-23

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 13	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	5:00
Aug. 18	OAKLAND (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 25	at Chicago (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 30	at San Diego (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 10	ARIZONA (Mon.)	7:15
Sep. 16	at St. Louis	12:00
Sep. 23	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Sep. 30	SEATTLE	1:05
Oct. 7	BALTIMORE	1:15
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Oct. 28	NEW ORLEANS	1:15
Nov. 4	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 12	at Seattle (Mon.)	5:30
Nov. 18	ST. LOUIS	1:15
Nov. 25	at Arizona	2:05
Dec. 2	at Carolina	1:00
Dec. 9	MINNESOTA	1:05
Dec. 15	CINCINNATI (Sat.)	5:15
Dec. 23	TAMPA BAY	5:15
Dec. 30	at Cleveland	1:00

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

2006 RECORD: 10-8 | STADIUM: Qwest Field, 67,000, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

NFC WEST

www.seahawks.com

AT A GLANCE

11220 N.E. 53rd Street
Kirkland, WA 98033
(425) 827-9777

TRAINING CAMP:
Kirkland Training Facility, Kirkland, WA

COACH:
Mike Holmgren, 9th year with Seahawks (75-61), 16th year as NFL head coach (159-103)

PRESIDENT, FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Tim Ruskell

VICE PRESIDENT, PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Ruston Webster

VICE PRESIDENT, FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION:
John Idzik

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Will Lewis

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Gil Haskell	*Offensive coordinator	25	8
Bill Laveroni	Offensive line	6	6
Jim Zorn	Quarterbacks	11	8
Stump Mitchell	Running backs	9	9
Nolan Cromwell	Receivers	17	9
Jim Lind	Tight ends	16	9
Gary Reynolds	Offensive assistant	8	5
John Marshall	Defensive coordinator	28	5
Dwaine Board	Defensive line	19	5
Zerick Rollins	Linebackers	7	7
Jim Mora	*Secondary	22	1
Larry Marmie	Assistant secondary	12	2
Tom Headlee	Defense quality control	2	2
Ray Rhodes	Consultant	27	5
Bruce DeHaven	Special teams	21	1
John Jamison	Special teams assistant	2	2
Mike Clark	Strength & Conditioning	4	4
Darren Krein	Strength & Conditioning	9	9

*Assistant head coach

Seahawks See Division Competition Tightening

The Seahawks can no longer take the NFC West for granted after three consecutive division titles. San Francisco and Arizona have improved on paper. St. Louis still has the offense to make things tough.

Seattle cannot afford another injury-plagued season. Key players must stay healthy and injured ones must bounce back strong.

That might be asking a lot with offensive starters Matt Hasselbeck, Walter Jones, Mack Strong, Bobby Engram, Marcus Pollard and Chris Gray in their 30s, and Shaun Alexander set to join them before September.

The window has not closed on Seattle, but with so many offensive players getting older, the Seahawks can't take success for granted. It's time for the defense to carry more of the load, a realistic expectation given the changes made this off-season.

Seattle has one of the NFL's best linebacking units. The secondary is remade with safeties Deon Grant, Brian Russell and a healthy Mike Green.

The Seahawks' season will be determined on the front lines. Guard Rob Sims and center Chris Spencer must build upon the promise they showed late last season, when Seattle sprung Alexander for 100-plus yards at Chicago in the playoffs. On defense, the newly acquired Patrick Kerney must return to his Pro Bowl form.

Yes, the Seahawks can push for another NFC West championship. They can contend for another NFC title. But with a tougher schedule and improved competition in the division, the road is steeper than before.

COACHING

The staff is stronger with Bruce DeHaven taking over promising, but inconsistent special-teams units. The addition of Jim Mora as secondary coach was a luxury. Mora became available when the Falcons fired him as head coach. Seattle wanted more consistency from its secondary, and Mora was a natural pick given that he played at the University of Washington and worked with Seahawks president Tim Ruskell in Atlanta.

Coach Mike Holmgren wants to win a championship before his contract expires after the 2008 season. He feels the urgency to win now.

RATING: 8

QUARTERBACKS

Matt Hasselbeck underwent off-season surgery to repair a torn labrum in his non-throwing shoulder. He started throwing at post-draft minicamps and the team thinks he'll be fine for the regular season. Getting Hasselbeck healthy is a big priority after knee, rib and shoulder problems bothered him in 2006.

Hasselbeck needs to be healthy in order to function at a Pro Bowl level. Backup Seneca Wallace has shown he can run the offense at a moderate level, but Hasselbeck is the key.

The Seahawks would like to use Wallace as a receiver and/or return specialist, but they won't do it unless they can find a veteran backup quarterback as insurance. Hasselbeck, Wallace and third-stringer

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
DE Patrick Kerney

A pectoral injury prematurely ended his final season in Atlanta. Seattle gambled on another injured star last season and Julian Peterson made the Seahawks look smart. Seattle needs Kerney to do the same.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
S Deon Grant, DE Brandon Green, TE Marcus Pollard, S Brian Russell

KEY LOSS:
WR Darrell Jackson (13/13)*
Trading your No. 1 receiver to a division rival doesn't make a lot of sense. Seattle was convinced Jackson had to go because he wasn't happy with his contract. This one could come back to haunt Seattle in the short term.

OTHER LOSSES
S Oliver Celestin (13/0), LS J.P. Darche (1/0), S Ken Hamlin (16/16), LB D.D. Lewis (5/1), DE Kemp Rasmussen (0/0), RB Josh Scobey (12/0), TE Jerramy Stevens (11/6), DE Joe Tafoya (13/0), C Robbie Tobeck (8/8), CB Jimmy Williams (16/0), DE Grant Wistrom (16/16)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 9 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

David Greene appear set.

RATING: 7.5

RUNNING BACKS

The Seahawks are getting older at a position that rewards youth. Alexander turns 30 in August, no big deal except that he's coming off the first injury-shortened season of his career. Fullback Mack Strong turns 36 in September. He barely made it through last season as injuries forced him to log far more snaps than expected.

Alexander is said to be working hard this off-season to make sure his previous level of durability returns. Backup Maurice Morris has proven to be serviceable at worst and effective at best. Like Alexander, he needs the line to play more like it did in 2005 than last season.

Leonard Weaver gives Seattle a highly promising prospect at fullback. He has a chance to carve out playing time as Seattle tries to keep Strong healthy and fresh. Weaver is a punishing runner who has worked on his blocking skills. Strong is better suited for the base offense, however.

RATING: 8

RECEIVERS

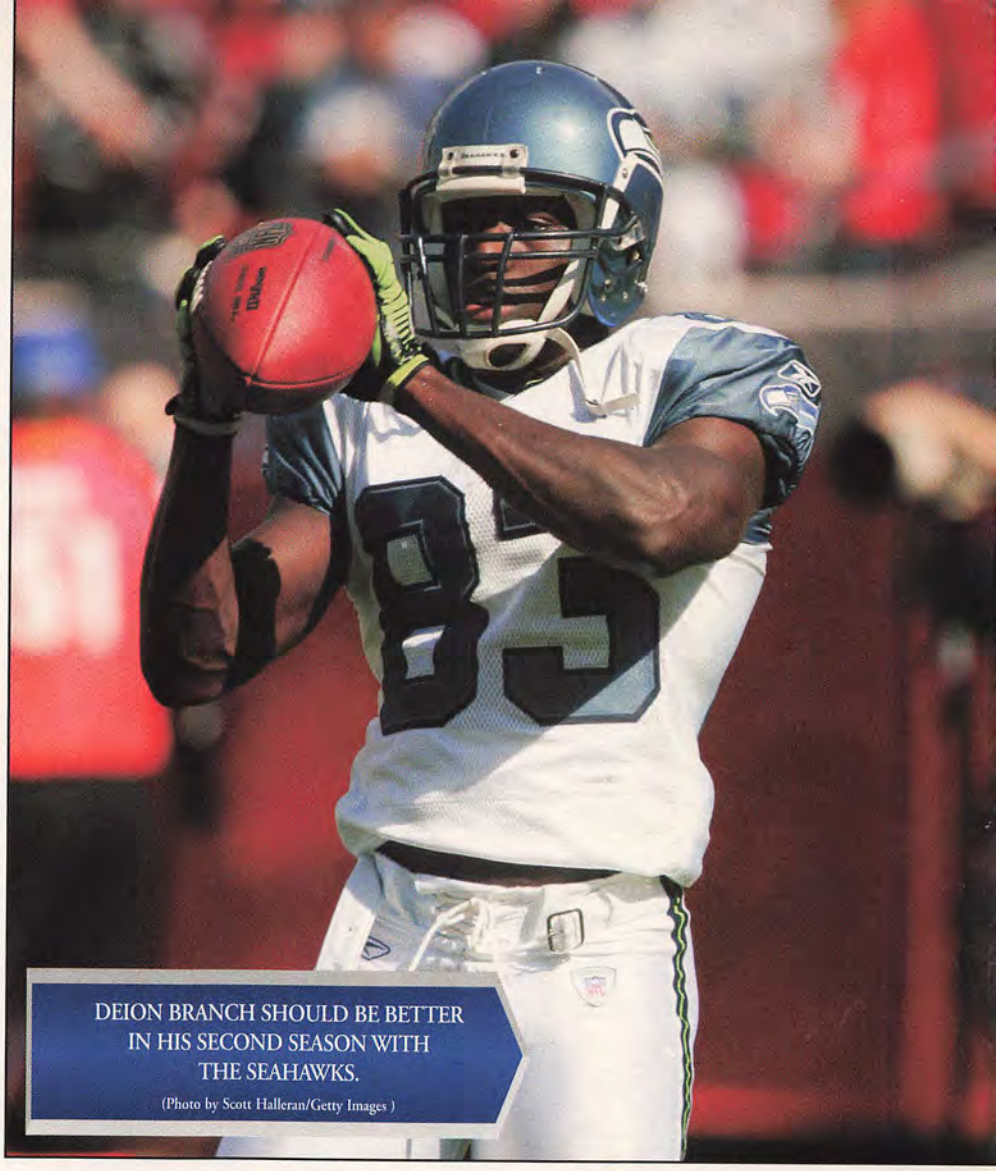
Seattle remade the position by dealing Darrell Jackson to San Francisco after seven mostly productive seasons. Jackson was at his best during games, but management had tired of his dissatisfaction over a contract, which had led to Jackson missing voluntary minicamps.

The team moves forward with Deion Branch and D.J. Hackett as the likely starters. Branch, acquired from New England after the 2006 opener, should emerge as a clutch option now that he has a full off-season in the system. Hackett, a big-play threat with size and exceptional ball skills, has proven he deserves a chance to play.

Nate Burleson disappointed as a receiver in his first season with the team. Seattle hopes he becomes productive in year two, but the 6-2 Hackett does provide more than just insurance. He's coming off a 45-catch, 610-yard season in limited work.

Bobby Engram remains the third receiver, if his health stabilizes. A thyroid condition sapped Engram of energy last season. He's 34 years old and best suited to a limited role.

RATING: 7



DEION BRANCH SHOULD BE BETTER IN HIS SECOND SEASON WITH THE SEAHAWKS.

(Photo by Scott Halleran/Getty Images)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Seattle still hasn't recovered from Steve Hutchinson's departure to Minnesota following the 2005 season. The team tried to atone by landing San Diego guard Kris Dielman in free agency, but Seattle's attempts led to disappointment when Dielman re-signed with the Chargers. Seattle then brought back Chris Gray, 37, and injury-prone Floyd Womack.

Walter Jones remains a force at left tackle, albeit a less dominant one. He's 33 years old and would benefit from stability around him. Right tackle Sean Locklear is healthy again and playing for a lucrative contract, so he should enjoy a strong season.

The uncertainty is in the middle of the line. Left guard Rob Sims and center Chris Spencer learned on the fly last season. They have the talent to perform well. Now they need time together. None of the rookies appears ready to start at right guard, where Gray could once again emerge as the best option.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Left end Patrick Kerney gives the line a new look. He's the best pass-rushing lineman on the team and his presence could leave others with more favorable matchups. This line will reach its potential only if Marcus Tubbs recovers from microfracture knee surgery. Tubbs commands double-team attention. He also anchors well against the run.

Rocky Bernard played through injuries last season and wasn't himself as a pass rusher. Getting Kerney, Bernard and third-down rush end Julian Peterson together could be a winning combination for Seattle on obvious passing downs.

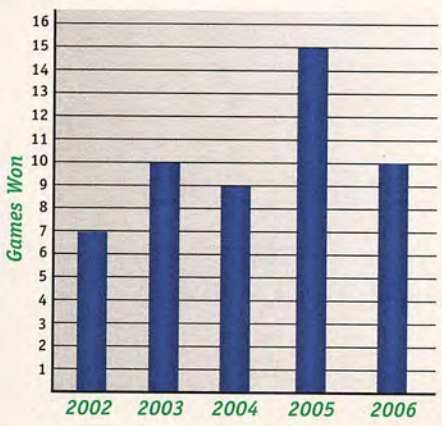
The base defense needs a healthy Tubbs to hold up consistently against good teams. Tubbs is ahead of schedule in his rehab, but microfracture procedures are difficult to overcome.

RATING: 6.5

LINEBACKERS

Lofa Tatupu and Julian Peterson are coming off

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006*

Seahawks Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
83	**Branch, Deion**	**5-9**	**193**	**6**	**Louisville**	**14/13**	**T,NE 06**	**D2 NE 02**	**Former Super Bowl MVP still getting acclimated to system.**
81	Burleson, Nate	6-0	192	5	Nevada	16/6	RFA,MINN 06	D3 MINN 03	Disappointing season mitigated somewhat by kick returns.
84	Engram, Bobby	5-10	188	12	Penn State	7/6	FA 01	D2 CHI 96	Aging possession receiver must prove he can stay healthy.
18	**Hackett, D.J.**	**6-2**	**199**	**4**	**Colorado**	**14/5**	**D5 04**	**D5 SEA 04**	**Starting job not his yet, but he's the leading candidate.**
85	Heller, Will (TE)	6-6	265	5	Georgia Tech	16/0	UFA,TB 06	OFA TB 03	Versatile backup can play tight end or fullback in a pinch.
47	Joppru, Bennie (TE)	6-4	242	5	Michigan	5/0	FA 06	D2 HOUS 03	Injuries kept him off the field every year until last season.
82	Kent, Jordan	6-4	217	R	Oregon	0/0	D6 07	D6 SEA 07	Three-sport athlete at Oregon is raw, but has potential.
87	Obomanu, Ben	6-0	203	1	Auburn	0/0	FA 06	D7 SEA 06	Has a chance to make jump from practice squad to roster.
88	**Pollard, Marcus (TE)**	**6-3**	**250**	**13**	**Bradley**	**15/5**	**FA 07**	**OFA IND 95**	**Hawks think he can catch 40 or 50 passes despite age (35).**
89	Stephens, Leonard (TE)	6-3	250	2	Howard	0/0	FA 07	OFA SD 00	Coaching staff thinks he has potential as receiving tight end.
86	Taylor, Courtney	6-1	204	R	Auburn	0/0	D6 07	D6 SEA 07	Hawks haven't had much luck with Auburn receivers, yet.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
68	Ashworth, Tom (G)	6-6	305	6	Colorado	16/7	UFA,NE 06	OFA SF 01	Proved capable as fill-in right tackle when Locklear went down last season.
62	**Gray, Chris (G)**	**6-4**	**308**	**15**	**Auburn**	**15/15**	**UFA,CHI 98**	**D5 MIA 93**	**Holds franchise record for consecutive regular-season starts, but wearing down at 37.**
71	**Jones, Walter (T)**	**6-5**	**315**	**11**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D1 97**	**D1 SEA 97**	**Perennial Pro Bowl left tackle still among best, but not quite as good at 33.**
64	*King, Austin (C)	6-3	288	5	Northwestern	14/0	FA 07	D4 TB 03	Veteran lineman has one start in four NFL seasons; will struggle to earn a spot.
75	**Locklear, Sean (T)**	**6-4**	**301**	**4**	**North Carolina State**	**11/10**	**D3 04**	**D3 SEA 04**	**Signed first-round tender as restricted free agent and will start again.**
73	Morley, Steven (T)	6-7	330	3	St. Mary's, Canada	0/0	FA 07	FA GB 04	Injuries have kept him from practicing, and Morley not expected to make team.
67	**Sims, Rob (G)**	**6-3**	**307**	**2**	**Ohio State**	**14/3**	**D4 06**	**D4 SEA 06**	**Expected to become full-time starting left guard after promising rookie season.**
65	**Spencer, Chris (C)**	**6-3**	**309**	**3**	**Mississippi**	**16/13**	**D1 05**	**D1 SEA 05**	**Former first-round choice takes over at center for retiring Robbie Tobeck.**
69	Vallos, Steve	6-3	290	R	Wake Forest	0/0	D7 07	D7 SEA 07	Experienced lineman looks like a candidate for practice squad if he doesn't make top 53.
74	Willis, Ray (T)	6-6	327	3	Florida State	1/0	D4 05	D4 SEA 05	Prototype right tackle could dabble at guard as Seahawks try to get him on field.
77	Womack, Floyd (G)	6-4	333	7	Mississippi State	9/9	D4 01	D4 SEA 01	Injury-plagued veteran is versatile and talented, but can't catch a break.
66	Wrotto, Mansfield (G)	6-3	310	R	Georgia Tech	0/0	D4 07	D4 SEA 07	Hawks considered Josh Beekman, but thought Wrotto had more upside down the road.
RUNNING BACKS									
37	**Alexander, Shaun**	**5-11**	**225**	**7**	**Alabama**	**10/10**	**D1 00**	**D1 SEA 00**	**Worked hard this off-season to bounce back from down season.**
34	Kirtman, David (FB)	6-0	232	1	Southern Cal	0/0	FA 06	D5 SEA 06	Looking at another season on practice squad unless he surprises.
20	Morris, Maurice	5-11	202	5	Oregon	16/8	D2 02	D2 SEA 02	He's no Alexander, but can run well if the blocking is there.
49	*Parry, Josh (FB)	6-2	250	4	San Jose State	8/0	FA 07	OFA PHA 01	Seattle's special teams much better off with Parry in the mix.
38	**Strong, Mack (FB)**	**6-0**	**245**	**13**	**Georgia**	**16/10**	**FA 00**	**OFA SEA 93**	**Hawks will limit his reps this season as he hits age 36.**
43	*Weaver, Leonard (FB)	6-0	251	2	Carson-Newman	0/0	OFA 05	OFA SEA 05	Talented as a runner, Weaver making strides as lead blocker
30	Weeks, Marquis	5-10	216	2	Virginia	10/0	FA 06	OFA SEA 05	Running back has been on fringes of the roster, but will not compete for time.
QUARTERBACKS									
11	Greene, David	6-3	226	3	Georgia	0/0	D3 05	D3 SEA 05	Third-stringer could be facing final chance if he doesn't show progress.
8	**Hasselbeck, Matt**	**6-4**	**223**	**9**	**Boston College**	**12/12**	**T,GB 01**	**D6 GB 98**	**Three-time Pro Bowl passer needs bounce-back season after injuries.**
15	Wallace, Seneca	5-11	196	3	Iowa State	8/4	D4 03	D4 SEA 03	Entering final year of contract, Wallace unlikely to start in Seattle.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
96	Atkins, Baraka (E)	6-4	271	R	Miami	0/0	D4 07	D4 SEA 07	Pass-rush specialist expected to emerge as fourth defensive end in four-man rotation.
99	**Bernard, Rocky (T)**	**6-3**	**293**	**6**	**Texas A&M**	**16/16**	**D5 02**	**D5 SEA 02**	**Coming off injury-plagued season that hurt production, but appears healthy now.**
91	**Darby, Chuck (T)**	**6-0**	**270**	**7**	**South Carolina State**	**16/14**	**UFA,TB 05**	**OFA BLT 98**	**Team leader overcomes small stature through leverage and all-out hustle.**
95	Davis, Russell (T)	6-4	306	9	North Carolina	13/0	UFA,ARZ 06	D2 CHI 99	Depth at tackle position critical and Davis has considerable starting experience.
94	**Fisher, Bryce (E)**	**6-3**	**268**	**7**	**Air Force**	**16/16**	**UFA,STL 05**	**D7 BUFF 99**	**Lost starting job on left with Kerney's arrival, will move to the right side.**
70	Green, Brandon (E)	6-3	264	5	Rice	13/5	UFA,STL 07	D6 JAX 03	Veteran defensive end faces fight from rookie Baraka Atkins as fourth defensive end.
98	Green, Marcus (T)	6-1	307	1	Ohio State	2/0	FA 06	OFA NYG 06	Team's decision to draft a tackle in third round hurts Green's chances at sticking.
97	***Kerney, Patrick (E)**	**6-5**	**273**	**9**	**Virginia**	**9/9**	**UFA,ATL 07**	**D1 ATL 99**	**Pectoral injury not expected to hamper former Pro Bowl pass rusher from Atlanta.**
92	Mebane, Brandon (T)	6-1	309	R	California	0/0	D3 07	D3 SEA 07	Hawks see third-round choice as a younger Chuck Darby with better size vs. the run.
55	Tapp, Darryl (E)	6-1	265	2	Virginia Tech	16/0	D2 06	D2 SEA 06	Former second-round choice could get chance to start on right side, succeeding Wistrom.
93	*Terrill, Craig (T)	6-2	294	4	Purdue	11/0	D6 04	D6 SEA 04	Decent pass rusher healthy again after suffering season-ending knee injury in 2006.
90	*Tubbs, Marcus (T)	6-3	324	4	Texas	5/2	D1 04	D1 SEA 04	Massive former first-rounder coming off microfracture knee surgery ahead of schedule.
LINEBACKERS									
57	Bentley, Kevin (O)	6-0	245	6	Northwestern	14/0	FA 05	D4 CLV 02	Has become better known for penalties on special teams over last couple seasons.
58	Cooper, Marquis (O)	6-3	213	4	Washington	4/0	FA 06	D3 TB 04	Former University of Washington star has local ties, but lacks ideal size.
54	Herring, Will (O)	6-3	221	R	Auburn	0/0	D5 07	D5 SEA 07	Former safety is undersized, but may contribute on special teams, and as linebacker.
56	**Hill, LeRoy (O)**	**6-1**	**229**	**3**	**Clemson**	**15/15**	**D3 05**	**D3 SEA 05**	**Talented pass rusher looking to rediscover form after getting lost in Peterson's shadow.**
53	Koutouvides, Niko (M)	6-2	238	4	Purdue	16/0	D4 04	D4 SEA 04	Leader on special teams will never start as long as Tatupu is available.
50	Laury, Lance (O)	6-2	233	2	South Carolina	8/0	FA 06	OFA SEA 06	Top special-teams player likes to hit people, but probably not ready to play on defense.
59	**Peterson, Julian (O)**	**6-3**	**235**	**8**	**Michigan State**	**16/16**	**UFA,SF 06**	**D1 SF 00**	**Old Achilles' injury no longer a factor as Peterson asserts self among NFL's best.**
51	**Tatupu, Lofa (M)**	**6-0**	**238**	**3**	**Southern Cal**	**16/16**	**D2 05**	**D2 SEA 05**	**Two-time Pro Bowler anchors middle of defense and plays with contagious energy.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
27	Babineaux, Jordan	6-0	200	4	Southern Arkansas	15/8	FA 04	OFA SEA 04	Asked to start at safety last season, Babineaux now more likely to play corner.
28	Boulware, Michael (S)	6-3	223	4	Florida State	16/7	D2 04	D2 SEA 04	Veteran still has a chance to start, but newcomer Brian Russell the favorite.
33	Gardner, Rich (CB)	5-10	194	3	Penn State	0/0	FA 06	D3 TENN 04	Additional depth in secondary makes it highly unlikely Gardner will earn a spot.
24	**Grant, Deon (S)**	**6-2**	**210**	**8**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**UFA,JAX 07**	**D2 CARO 00**	**Range, athletic ability and leadership appealed to Seahawks in free agency.**
42	*Green, Mike (S)	6-0	195	8	Northwestern State	0/0	T,CHI 06	D7 CHI 00	Was on way to starting last season until suffering season-ending injury in camp.
31	*Herndon, Kelly (CB)	5-10	180	6	Toledo	16/16	RFA,DEN 05	OFA SF 99	Hard-working veteran and former starter faces challenges coming off broken ankle.
29	Hunter, Pete (CB)	6-2	208	4	Virginia Union	0/0	FA 06	D5 DALL 02	Loan officer-turned-cornerback helped team last season, but not expected to stick.
21	**Jennings, Kelly (CB)**	**5-11**	**178**	**2**	**Miami**	**16/2**	**D1 06**	**D1 SEA 06**	**Former first-round pick expected to start on the left side in second season.**
35	Ross, Gerard (CB)	6-1	200	1	Florida State	0/0	FA 06	OFA SEA 06	Hawks have found a spot for him on the practice squad in the past.
25	***Russell, Brian (S)**	**6-2**	**207**	**5**	**San Diego State**	**12/12**	**UFA,CLV 07**	**OFA MINN 01**	**Free-agent pickup from Cleveland could challenge to start on strong side.**
23	**Trufant, Marcus (CB)**	**5-11**	**199**	**5**	**Washington State**	**15/15**	**D1 03**	**D1 SEA 03**	**Coming off ankle injury, but should be healthy for the regular season.**
26	Wilson, Josh (CB)	5-9	189	R	Maryland	0/0	D2 07	D2 SEA 07	Rookie expected to contribute as nickel corner and as return specialist on kickoffs.
SPECIALISTS									
3	Brown, Josh (K)	6-0	202	5	Nebraska	16/0	D7 03	D7 SEA 03	Known for game-winners, Brown also effective on kickoffs.
1	Plackemeier, Ryan (P)	6-3	248	2	Wake Forest	16/0	D7 06	D7 SEA 06	Has worked hard at becoming a more complete punter.
48	Rackley, Derek (LS/TE)	6-4	250	8	Minnesota	15/9	FA 06	OFA ATL 00	Not a polished snapper, he has size to hold up vs. rush.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Joe Fernandez (Fresno State), Chris Jones (1, Jackson State), Logan Payne (Minnesota); TE Joe Newton (Oregon State); OG Jason Murphy (1, Virginia Tech); Cs Nick Jones (Georgia), Pat Ross (1, Boston College); QBs Derek Devine (Marshall), Travis Lulay (1, Montana State); RBs Kenny James (Washington), Joe Rubin (Portland State); DE Nu'u Tafisi (California); DTs Lynn McGruder (1, Oklahoma), Eric Taylor (1, Memphis); LBs Cameron Jensen (Brigham Young), Tony Robinson (Carson-Newman), Marcus Rucker (Rice); CBs Dennis Davis (1, Georgia Tech), Kevin Hobbs (1, Auburn); Ss Patrick Ghee (Wake Forest), C.J. Wallace (Washington); LS Thomas Gafford (1, Houston); PK Tyler Jones (1, Boise State); P Kyle Stringer (Boise State)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*D.J. Hackett can emerge as a starting receiver and perhaps the most dynamic threat in the Seattle passing game. He stands 6-2 and has shown he can make plays downfield.

*The Seahawks could have more troubles on their offensive line if Chris Gray and Floyd Womack can't stay healthy. Gray broke down physically for the first time last season. He'll be 37 years old when the season starts. Womack hasn't been able to stay healthy, ever.

*Marcus Pollard will be given a chance to catch 40 or 50 passes. He's getting up there in age, but the Seahawks think his body is in surprisingly good condition. Relying on a 35-year-old starting tight end is risky, but coach Mike Holmgren is convinced this gamble will pay off.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Deion Branch

The Seahawks paid handsomely for the former Super Bowl MVP. They sent their 2007 first-round choice to New England in hopes that Branch's production and character would pay long-term dividends.

The deal went down after the 2006 opener, too late for Branch to develop a meaningful rapport with Matt Hasselbeck.

Branch showed signs of justifying his six-year, $39 million price tag, catching two touchdown passes during a road victory over the upstart Rams. A knee injury knocked out quarterback Matt Hasselbeck not long thereafter, sidelining the quarterback for a month.

Hasselbeck's absence prevented the two from gaining needed time together in the offense. Branch made some plays for backup Seneca Wallace, but it wasn't the same. Trying to learn coach Mike Holmgren's intricate playbook was hard enough without having to adjust from one quarterback to another and back.

Branch played exclusively at split end last season because the team didn't want him trying to learn more than one position. He'll move to flanker this season, taking the spot Darrell Jackson has manned since the 2000 season. Jackson was the Seahawks' most productive receiver during that time. Branch should put up similar numbers.

Pro Bowl seasons. Tatupu needs help in front of him to play the run well consistently. He didn't always get that last season, another reason Seattle needs Tubbs and third-round choice Brandon Mebane to anchor well against the run.

Peterson's 2006 addition met expectations. He could be even more effective with his former defensive coordinator in San Francisco, Jim Mora, offering an idea or two. Mora will focus on the secondary, but the staff has conspired with him in identifying ways to maximize what Peterson brings to a defense.

Leroy Hill is the key to this unit taking the next step. Injuries slowed him for much of last season. Hill also seemed to suffer from Peterson's arrival in that the team no longer asked him to rush the passer. The staff widened Hill's role late in the season and the results were obvious. The carryover should continue this season, giving Seattle one of the NFL's very best linebacking units.

RATING: 9

SECONDARY

The Seahawks vowed never again to run out of depth in the secondary after injuries felled three of their top four corners heading into the playoffs last season. The team drafted Maryland corner Josh Wilson in the second round, providing quality depth at a position already manned by former first-round picks Marcus Trufant and Kelly Jennings.

The big difference this season is at safety. The staff and front office had wearied of repeated breakdowns leading to big plays. Michael Boulware was the primary culprit in many of those breakdowns. He returns, but probably in a backup role.

Seattle invested heavily in free safety Deon Grant, a free-agent addition from Jacksonville. The team also added Brian Russell from Cleveland while welcoming back former Bears starter Mike Green from a serious foot injury. Those three give Seattle options, and cornerback Jordan Babineaux can help at safety in a pinch.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Burleson and Wilson give life to the return game. Josh Brown is a clutch kicker who Seattle wisely named as its franchise player. Ryan Plackemeier is an emerging punter with a very strong leg and improving directional skills.

Seattle brought in Bruce DeHaven to make it work together. He's been one of the league's better special-teams coaches for roughly 20 years.

The Seahawks took a chance in letting dependable snapper J.P. Darche leave in free agency. Derek Rackley isn't as consistent.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

The Seahawks have solid veteran leadership and no locker-room malcontents. Ruskell has emphasized character, sometimes at the expense of talent, and it shows in how the team battles.

RATING: Plus 1

— Mike Sando

2006 RESULTS

Record: 10-8

Sep. 10	at Detroit	9-6
Sep. 17	ARIZONA	21-10
Sep. 24	N.Y. GIANTS	42-30
Oct. 1	at Chicago	6-37
Oct. 8	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 15	at St. Louis	30-28
Oct. 22	MINNESOTA	13-31
Oct. 29	at Kansas City	28-35
Nov. 6	OAKLAND	16-0
Nov. 12	ST. LOUIS	24-22
Nov. 19	at San Francisco	14-20
Nov. 27	GREEN BAY	34-24
Dec. 3	at Denver	23-20
Dec. 10	at Arizona	21-27
Dec. 14	SAN FRANCISCO	14-24
Dec. 24	SAN DIEGO	17-20
Dec. 31	at Tampa Bay	23-7
Jan. 6	DALLAS	21-20
Jan. 14	at Chicago (OT)	24-27

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 12	at San Diego (Sun.)	5:15
Aug. 18	at Green Bay (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 25	MINNESOTA (Sat.)	6:00
Aug. 30	OAKLAND (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	TAMPA BAY	1:15
Sep. 16	at Arizona	1:05
Sep. 23	CINCINNATI	1:05
Sep. 30	at San Francisco	1:05
Oct. 7	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct. 14	NEW ORLEANS	5:15
Oct. 21	ST. LOUIS	1:15
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	at Cleveland	4:05
Nov. 12	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	5:30
Nov. 18	CHICAGO	5:15
Nov. 25	at St. Louis	12:00
Dec. 2	at Philadelphia	1:00
Dec. 9	ARIZONA	1:05
Dec. 16	at Carolina	1:00
Dec. 23	BALTIMORE	1:15
Dec. 30	at Atlanta	1:00

By Howard Balzer

SCOPING the NFL

Call this the year of character in the NFL.

Prior to the draft, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell made headlines when he suspended Tennessee cornerback Pacman Jones for one year and Cincinnati wide receiver Chris Henry for the first eight games of the season. A day before the draft, he suspended Kansas City defensive end Jared Allen for the first four games of the season. Goodell insists he's not grandstanding, that he is just doing the right thing with his new personal conduct policy. Actually, the policy isn't much different than before. What's changed are the penalties.

When former Commissioner Paul Tagliabue had to discipline players, he simply elected to slap players on the wrist with one- or two-game suspensions. Jones insisted Goodell was making an example out of him, the commissioner argued otherwise.

"Players need to understand that there are consequences to bad decisions," he said. "And if they make a bad choice, there will be consequences, particularly repeated bad decisions. I hope people understand the message. I'm not making an example out of Pacman. I think this is something we have to continually and aggressively get out in front of.

"I'm not trying to create a tough-guy reputation. I'm trying to create a situation where players understand what is expected of them, and if they make bad choices, there will be consequences for that. If clubs take chances on players with character issues and it blows up in their faces, there will be negative public reaction, there will be (salary) cap consequences and potentially there could be the discipline that I instill from a league standpoint against the team. We'll have to see how that goes."

Several players with character questions slipped in April's draft, but most of the players were still selected. That creates less of a financial risk, but doesn't negate the bottom-line issue. Goodell emphasized it's the teams that control what players enter the league.

"If you are bringing in the wrong type of player — which I can't control and don't want to control, that's a club decision — then you have to re-evaluate the kind of people you bring in," Goodell said. "That's the reason for having club discipline. At some point in time, you're going to have to re-evaluate the type of people you bring into your organization."

PHOTO BY SCOTT BOEHM/GETTY IMAGES

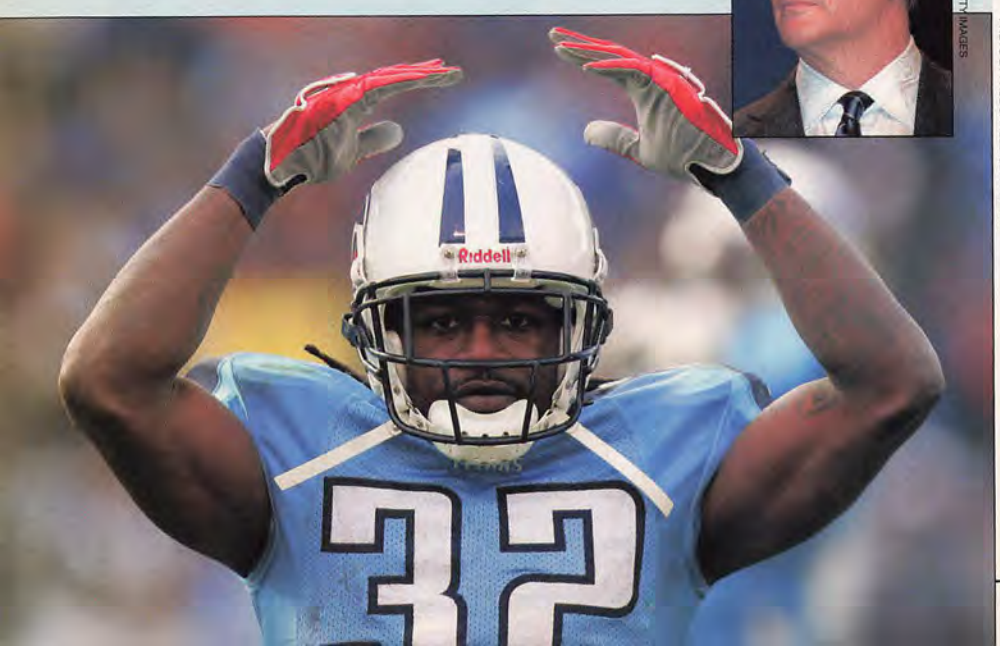


PHOTO BY PAUL SPINELLI/GETTY IMAGES

WHO TEAMS GAMBLED ON

Player	Team	Round
S Brandon Meriweather	New England	1
CB Eric Wright	Cleveland	2
DT Tank Tyler	Kansas City	3
DT Marcus Thomas	Denver	4

FREE-AGENT MADNESS

Every year, when March rolls around, many NFL teams discard any common sense that is usually present.

When the clock strikes midnight at the start of the league year, desperate teams find new ways to waste a whole lot of money. It doesn't matter if players deserve the riches or not. Teams can only pursue the players that are available, so by virtue of nothing more than serendipity, contracts are doled out in staggering numbers.

That was never more true than this past March. With the salary cap increasing, teams had to figure out how to spend their money. The result was not unexpected or surprising.

Last year, All-Pro guard Steve Hutchinson received a financial package worth $49 million. It could be strongly argued that he was worth it. But what Hutchinson wrought was similar deals to Derrick Dockery (Buffalo) and Leonard Davis (Dallas).

Davis had been a classic under-achiever in Arizona, so naturally, the Cowboys guaranteed him $16 million. Something tells me they will be disappointed. The Cowboys' largesse also shows why it's so important to draft well. Dallas blew second- and third-round picks in 2004 on tackle Jacob Rogers and guard Stephen Peterman, respectively. Had the Cowboys hit on those picks, they wouldn't have had a need for Davis.

BEST ADDITIONS

Denver RB Travis Henry: It was Henry's performance in 2006 that allowed Tennessee quarterback Vince Young to excel. Now, the Titans still don't have a runner they can count on.

Miami S Cameron Worrell: Dolphins got a standout special teams player for a $285,000 bonus.

New England TE Kyle Brady: It cost just a $2 million bonus and Brady will be worth every penny.

San Francisco NT Aubrayo Franklin and LB Tully Banta-Cain: They got nowhere near the money of CB Nate Clements, but they will be every bit as important to the 49ers defense.

Carolina QB David Carr: The over/under on Carr starting for the Panthers is the 2008 season. Take the under.

St. Louis LB Chris Draft: An under-the-radar signing, every year teams try to replace Draft and all he does is start games.

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

Chicago S Adam Archuleta: Bears coach Lovie Smith must be in a time machine, taking him back to when Archuleta was a rookie with the Rams in 2001. That was six years ago, and Smith can't have seen tape from the last two or three seasons. He can be a role player, but nothing more.

Seattle DE Patrick Kerney: He's a high-motor player, but $19.5 million guaranteed for a player coming off an injury and that will be 31 in December? Not smart.

Houston RB Ahman Green: The idea is to get young at running back, not guarantee $6.5 million for a 30-something runner.

Miami LB Joey Porter: Once again, $20 million guaranteed for a 30-year-old linebacker.

San Francisco WR Ashley Lelie: It was just a two-year deal with $2 million guaranteed, but no amount of money is worth it for this classic under-achiever. There's a reason other teams give up on him and the 49ers will learn that soon enough.

KEEPING YOUR OWN

Not enough credit is given to teams for signing their own players, keeping them out of the hands of opponents. That can be hard to do, but it's usually the best strategy.

Kansas City TE Tony Gonzalez: He re-signed before free agency, but would he have if he knew the direction the team was taking?

RATING THE NEW COACHES

There are seven teams with new coaches this season, five of whom have never been head coaches before.

Who has the best chance of succeeding?

Team	New Coach	He Replaced
Arizona	Ken Whisenhunt	Dennis Green
Atlanta	Bobby Petrino	Jim Mora
Dallas	Wade Phillips	Bill Parcells
Miami	Cam Cameron	Nick Saban
Oakland	Lane Kiffin	Art Shell
Pittsburgh	Mike Tomlin	Bill Cowher
San Diego	Norv Turner	Marty Schottenheimer

PHOTO BY DONALD MIRALLE/GETTY IMAGES

NORV TURNER

THE SKINNY ON ...

Whisenhunt: Bringing Russ Grimm with him helps, as the "Pittsburgh guys" will try to bring toughness to the desert. They will, but it will take time. Under Green, the Cardinals kept changing offensive coordinators and line coaches. Grimm will end the party.

Petrino: Somehow, Petrino has to make Michael Vick an NFL quarterback to be successful in the short term. It's a tall order. Steve Young didn't become a Hall-of-Fame quarterback until he learned to be patient in the pocket. Of course, it's easier to be patient when you have Jerry Rice on your side.

Phillips: Any coach that quotes Neil Diamond in his first press conference as a Cowboy is OK by me. Still, this whole idea that being more laid-back than Parcells will make a difference is just fodder for headlines. The first time the Cowboys lose a game they should have won, it will be said Phillips doesn't crack the whip enough. The biggest question with the Cowboys is whether Jason Garrett will be a good offensive coordinator.

Cameron: It's mid-May, the preseason magazines are going to press, and you don't have a clue who will be playing quarterback in September? This is not a recipe for success. Maybe Trent Green. Maybe Daunte Culpepper. Maybe Cleo Lemon. Maybe Cleo Laine. Maybe Dan Marino is still available. Or Jay Fiedler. Actually, it might not matter who plays quarterback because the Dolphins don't have many qualified people to block in front of Mr. Maybe. Why does Green want to go there anyway after coming off a serious concussion?

Kiffin: Al Davis is praying the 31-year-old Kiffin is the reincarnation of John Madden, or at the least, Jon Gruden. The current Buccaneers coach has been the only leader with any consistent success in the last decade. In four seasons since they were in the Super Bowl, the Raiders have won 15 games. Pride and Poise? Commitment to Excellence? Just find a coach and ... let him coach.

Tomlin: What do you do when you're the third coach since 1969? If you're Tomlin, you discard the Cover 2 defense you employed at previous stops in Tampa Bay and Minnesota and stick with coordinator Dick LeBeau's 3-4. You also figure out a way to harness quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and find a leader to replace Jerome Bettis. And thank Bill Cowher for this amazing opportunity.

Turner: Critics point to Turner's poor head coaching record in Washington and Oakland, but he worked for Dan Snyder and Al Davis. Turner didn't do any worse for the Redskins than Joe Gibbs is doing and no one's calling Gibbs a bad coach. Turner will work his magic with quarterback Philip Rivers and watch his defense get after people. Then, when he wins, it will be said it's because he has the players. No kidding.

SCOPING the NFL

San Diego G Kris Dielman: The Chargers were resigned to losing him, and Dielman was in Seattle ready to sign with the Seahawks when he had a revelation: The beach is a lot nicer than rain. So, he took less money to stay, but still got $18 million guaranteed.

New Orleans OT Jon Stinchcomb and LB Scott Shanle: The Saints didn't break the bank for two important players in their 2006 success.

St. Louis DE Leonard Little and LB Pisa Tinoisamoa: The Rams locked them up during the 2006 season. Had they become free agents, Little would have been franchised and Tinoisamoa would likely be elsewhere.

San Francisco FB Moran Norris: He was an underrated part of Frank Gore's success.

Baltimore LB Jarret Johnson: The Ravens have confidence in their own draft and young players, which is how they allow players like Adalius Thomas to leave. Two years ago, they let linebacker Ed Hartwell depart and plugged in Bart Scott.

DEFENDING

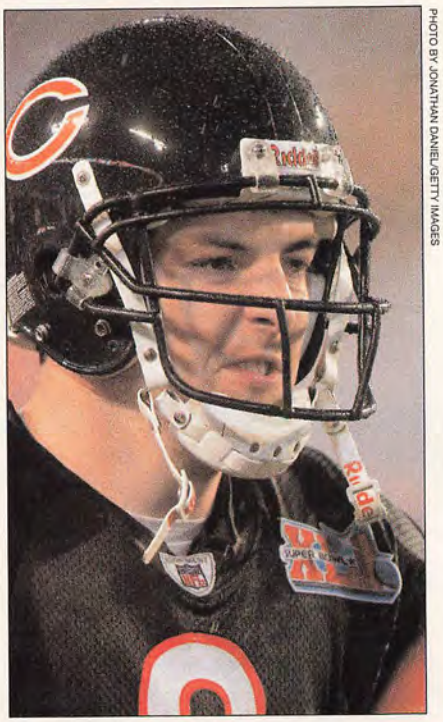


PHOTO BY JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

ISN'T THAT SPECIAL

We all understand the importance of special teams, but how many of us really know the anonymous kamikazes that run down the field on kicks, fearing nothing?

Thus we present a baker's dozen in each conference: the best at covering ground making it seem that opposing special teams seem to be contesting 13 players not 11.

NFC

1. Brendon Ayanbadejo, Chicago
2. Quintin Mikell, Philadelphia
3. Aaron Francisco, Arizona
4. Sean Morey, Arizona
5. Keith Lewis, San Francisco
6. Heath Farwell, Minnesota
7. Steve Gleason, New Orleans
8. Donte Curry, Detroit
9. Kalvin Pearson, Tampa Bay
10. Khary Campbell, Washington
11. Omare Lowe, Atlanta
12. Chase Blackburn, New York Giants
13. David Tyree, New York Giants

Keep an eye on: Omar Gaither, Philadelphia; Roger McIntosh, Washington

AFC

1. Rashad Washington, New York Jets
2. Clinton Hart, San Diego
3. Tim Dobbins, San Diego
4. Gary Stills, Baltimore
5. Nick Sorensen, Jacksonville
6. Blue Adams, Cincinnati
7. James Harrison, Pittsburgh
8. Gerald Sensabaugh, Jacksonville
9. Cody Spencer, New York Jets
10. Curome Cox, Denver
11. Boomer Grigsby, Kansas City
12. Cameron Worrell, Miami
13. Pierre Woods, New England

Keep an eye on: Brodney Pool, Cleveland; Cortland Finnegan, Tennessee; Tyjuan Hagler, Indianapolis

PHOTO BY JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

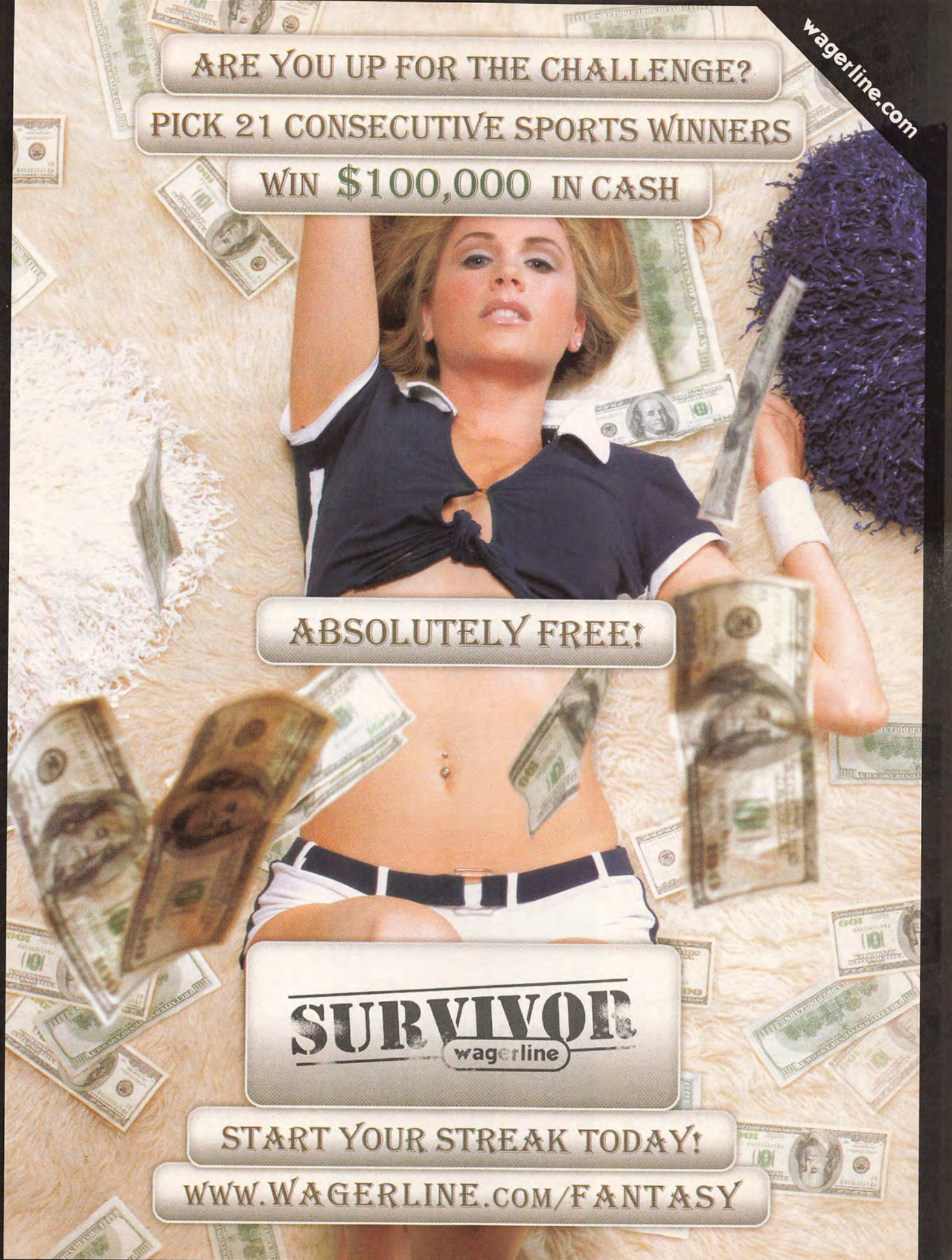
REX

The Bears haven't played a game since February, which means there hasn't been an opportunity for anyone to criticize quarterback Rex Grossman. But it won't be long for the season to start, and perhaps the biggest factor in the team's success will be how Grossman handles things.

He has the support of his coach, but Grossman still has to go out and produce. Coach Lovie Smith has stressed that Grossman is his quarterback, despite a rabid populace that seems to rejoice in taking the first-year starter down. Yes, first-year starter.

While Grossman has been around for a few seasons, the 2006 season was the first in which he played the entire year.

"We have a starter at the quarterback position, Rex Grossman," Smith has repeatedly said. "As we start the new year we'll have a depth chart, a starting rotation. But from there, every-


wagerline.com
ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?
PICK 21 CONSECUTIVE SPORTS WINNERS
WIN $100,000 IN CASH
ABSOLUTELY FREE!
SURVIVOR
wagerline
START YOUR STREAK TODAY!
WWW.WAGERLINE.COM/FANTASY

SCOPING the NFL

one has to play at a certain level, and I'm expecting that out of Rex and the rest of the starters, also."

General manager Jerry Angelo even went after Grossman's critics, saying they place the quarterback under "ludicrous scrutiny."

Added Angelo, "I'm understanding he has his flaws, but there's a difference between piling on and dirty pool, and I thought a lot of the media went over the line."

Meanwhile, as Bears quarterbacks coach Wade Wilson left the team for a job with the Cowboys, he said, "I told him he has all the ability in the world to take the next step. He endured a lot of criticism (last season) and came through strong. He definitely has to get more consistent, and by doing that, I'm talking about as much with his head as his arm.

"He has to be able to make decisions, take a little bit of his aggressiveness away without going in a shell. You have to define that fine line of when to take a shot downfield. It's a gray area. You do not want to saddle Rex with managing the game. He's never going to go anywhere managing the game, other than winning the division. You want a guy to go out and win the Super Bowl, and he has that capability."

MARK THIS DATE DOWN:
NOV. 4

That's the day New England travels to Indianapolis to play the Colts. The battles between these two teams have been the highlight of several recent seasons.

A Patriots playoff win a few seasons ago led to the league making it a point of emphasis to call illegal contact. Coach Bill Belichick had no answer for the Colts offense in this past season's come-from-behind playoff win by Indianapolis, so he decided to fight fire with fire.

After losing wide receivers Deion Branch and David Givens last year, this off-season the Patriots signed Donte' Stallworth and Kelley Washington and traded for Randy Moss and Wes Welker.

CBS announcer Phil Simms, a former quarterback for the Giants, has noticed, and understands.

"When I played, every move we made for years and years was for two reasons: to block the Philadelphia Eagles and to beat the Washington Redskins," Simms said. "And we figured if we could do that, we could beat anybody.

PHANTOM CONTRACTS

It is indelibly etched in everyone's brain that cornerback Nate Clements signed an eight-year, $80 million contract with the 49ers in March.

It doesn't matter if it's not true. Clements' agent got those numbers out there quickly, ensuring that the perception of the deal would win out over the reality. So, how was it accomplished?

Technically, there are eight years of one-year contracts that total $80 million. But, here's why the deal isn't worth that much.

Breaking down the deal by year, Clements did not receive a signing bonus, but there is a $10 million roster bonus this year, which counts immediately against the salary cap. He will also receive a guaranteed $10 million option bonus in 2008, which for cap purposes will prorate against the cap from 2008 through 2013 at $1.67 million a year.

Once the option is exercised, the final year of the contract (2014) is voided, wiping out close to $16 million in compensation. Thus, for practical purposes, it is a seven-year, $64.02 million contract, not an eight-year, $80 million deal. In addition, the final two years of the deal carry a combined $19.87 million in salary and workout bonuses.

His base salaries total $7.5 million for the first three years, before his salary jumps to $6 million in 2010. Clements will also receive a $500,000 off-season workout bonus in each year of the contract.

YEAR	SALARY	BONUS	WORKOUT	CAP
2007	$600,000	$10.0M (RB)	$500,000	$11.1M
2008	$3,383,334	$10.0M (OB)	$500,000	$5.5M
2009	$3,516,666	NA	$500,000	$5.68M
2010	$6.0M	NA	$500,000	$8.17M
2011	$7.25M	NA	$500,000	$9.42M
2012	$9.0M	NA	$500,000	$11.17M
2013	$10.77M	NA	$500,000	$12.94M

PHOTO BY SCOTT BOEHM/GETTY IMAGES

"So now you have the Colts, and Peyton (Manning) in his prime and having done some amazing things in that championship game, and you need an answer to that. You can't slow them down, so what do you do? You run with them."

WILL HISTORY REPEAT?

Baltimore Ravens head coach Bill Billick was an assistant with the Vikings in 1993 when they selected quarterback Gino Torretta in the seventh round of the draft.

Torretta was 26-1 in college at Miami and won the Heisman Trophy.

Fast forward 14 years, and Billick now has Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith of Ohio State, who, like Torretta, was a winner in college (25-3) record, but not highly regarded as a pro prospect. Torretta had just 16 pass attempts in his brief career. Smith was picked by the Ravens this year with the final choice of the fifth round, 174th overall, largely because he is only 6-0.

"I don't know what that phenomena is. I'll leave it to somebody smarter than I am

to figure out why that happened that way," Billick said. "You have to be very careful not to prejudge it. That just means that's what has been; it doesn't mean that's what will be."

At Baltimore's minicamp the week after the draft, offensive coordinator Rick Neuheisel said, "I think what stands out the most to everybody in the United States is he's the Heisman Trophy winner. He's eager to learn. He's not coming in here as though he's proven something. He's coming in here wanting to prove something."

Smith was taken aback when he was asked by a reporter whether he thought he would survive the final cut.

Responded Smith, "Not making the team is something that never crossed my mind. I'm wearing this (jersey) for a reason, and I'm here for a reason."

PHOTO BY MITCHELL LAYTON/GETTY IMAGES

PREDICTIONS ... Or, Throwing Darts at the Wall ... Again

Last year, I was so close to reading the dart board correctly, which is how some readers believe we make our NFL picks.

Well, after being right on four of 12 playoff teams in 2005, we did a tad better last year with six of 12 and placing two of the right teams in the conference championship game.

That's where my eyes must have deceived me. Otherwise, I would have had the Super Bowl right. In the NFC, it was supposed to be Chicago and Carolina in the conference championship game and Indianapolis and Denver in the AFC.

Naturally, I meant to go with the Bears and Colts in the Super Bowl, not the Panthers and Broncos, two teams that didn't even make the playoffs. Instead, I got cute and picked two quarterbacks named Jake to make the big game. Jake Plummer lost his job and has retired, while Jake Delhomme now has David Carr looking over his shoulder.

So, it's time to sharpen those tips and see where they land.

NFC EAST

PHILADELPHIA — Question Donovan McNabb all you want, but he will help the Eagles win the division again.

DALLAS — Owner Jerry Jones thinks the Cowboys are a Super Bowl team. They're not, but they're still pretty good.

N.Y. GIANTS — Tiki Barber isn't around anymore to rip Tom Coughlin. That's good. What's bad is they don't have anyone to replace him.

WASHINGTON — The Redskins keep getting older, not younger.

NFC NORTH

CHICAGO — Rex Grossman and Cedric Benson will decide just how good they'll be this year.

DETROIT — One of these years, this team won't disappoint its fans. This might be the year.

GREEN BAY — The idea was to get Brett Favre help for the offense. Who knows, maybe they'll get lucky.

MINNESOTA — It's hard to imagine this team scoring more than 14 points a game.

NFC SOUTH

NEW ORLEANS — It looks like the Saints are suddenly the class of the NFC.

CAROLINA — They still have too many question marks on offense.

TAMPA BAY — One of these days they'll trot out Doug Williams to play quarterback.

ATLANTA — Falcons will be in a dogfight to stay out of the cellar.

NFC WEST

SEATTLE — Seahawks win in a division that is getting better and better.

ST. LOUIS — Any improvement in the defense could mean a playoff spot.

SAN FRANCISCO — The biggest question is whether they'll miss departed offensive coordinator Norv Turner.

ARIZONA — Getting closer, but the division is very balanced.

WILD CARDS

Detroit, St. Louis

NFC TITLE GAME

New Orleans vs. Chicago

AFC EAST

NEW ENGLAND — Anything is possible with Tom Brady under center.

N.Y. JETS — Will the Jets win with mirrors again?

BUFFALO — How much they improve will depend on play of rookie runner Marshawn Lynch.

MIAMI — Anyone care to guess who their quarterback will be?

AFC NORTH

BALTIMORE — One of these years Ozzie Newsome will be executive of the year. Maybe this year after they get to the Super Bowl.

CINCINNATI — Bengals don't win the division, but they get through a season with no player arrests.

PITTSBURGH — Defense still has too many questions.

CLEVELAND — And the Cowboys get their first-round draft pick.

AFC SOUTH

INDIANAPOLIS — If any team is capable of repeating, it's the Colts.

JACKSONVILLE — They are second, but gap wide between them and Indianapolis.

HOUSTON — Reggie Bush comes to town Nov. 18, yet another reminder of 2006 gaffe.

TENNESSEE — The only way Titans escape the bottom is if one of their runners comes through.

AFC WEST

SAN DIEGO — Systems stay the same with coaching change, and team just keeps winning.

DENVER — Defense has lost some leadership, but running back Travis Henry could be a difference-maker.

OAKLAND — Just have a feeling Lane Kiffin will get this team on the right track.

KANSAS CITY — They will get worse before they start getting better again.

WILD CARDS

Cincinnati, Denver

AFC TITLE GAME

Baltimore vs. San Diego

SUPER BOWL XLII

A cool Brees in Arizona? Perhaps. But Saints stymied by Ravens defense.

To George Bailey, the Richest Man in Town!

By Alan Ross

In the movie classic *It's a Wonderful Life*, protagonist George Bailey endures a series of tailspins that have him on the brink of financial ruin (not to mention a scary identity confusion), before good fortune in the form of neighborly generosity repays his many earlier kindnesses and unassailable good character. In the end, Bailey, played by actor James Stewart, is toasted by his returning war-hero brother as "the richest man in town."

So, former St. Louis Cardinals cornerback Roger Wehrli chuckles in a mixture of disbelief and genuine sheepishness when asked if he has seen an ex-teammate's certain quote following the Pro Football Hall of Fame's announcement of Wehrli's Class of 2007 induction. The teammate, Keith Wortman, prosaically alluded to the Stewart movie in his exuberance upon hearing of Wehrli's unexpected, but joyous news.

"Sometimes, the Jimmy Stewarts really do win," said Wortman. "And Roger is George Bailey from 'It's a Wonderful Life.' The voters put George Bailey into the Hall of Fame. That's our Roger."

Wehrli responds with a slight shake of the head, nearly blushing, that indeed he had seen the quote.

"I guess that's a wonderful compliment," he says softly. "It was just so special, after the announcement was made, to get the phone calls. Gosh, I think just about everybody I ever played with called. It brings back a lot of memories, which we all cherish so much as players. The guys you played with have as much to do with your success as you do. To be able to share this honor with a lot of them is really special."

To say that Wehrli was a darkhorse for enshrinement entering his 20th and final year of Hall of Fame eligibility is an understatement. Just playing for the historically downtrodden Cardinals franchise alone handicaps any former player with a legitimate shot for entry. But while the onetime consensus All-American from

PHOTO BY B BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Roger Wehrli

Missouri posted excellent numbers in terms of Pro Bowls (seven), career interceptions (40), and a team record-tying 19 fumble recoveries, it was his consistent year-in, year-out high level of play at cornerback that brings him to the brink of pro football immortality.

"Roger is everything you want in a football player," says ex-Cardinals Hall of Fame safety Larry Wilson, who shared four years in the same defensive backfield with Wehrli in St. Louis and is the man who will present Wehrli at the Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremonies Aug. 4 in Canton. "He's fast; he's quick; he loves the game. Ray Nitschke used to talk about the passion of the game. Well, Roger had a passion that was just exceptional. He literally could do everything. He was a great man-for-man player and was always around the ball."

Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach, a once daunting divisional rival during the 1970s with Dallas, called Wehrli the best cornerback he ever faced. Staubach went further, terming him the original "shutdown corner," high praise that infers Wehrli subtly changed the game with his exceptional skills and tight coverage.

"After a while, you just stopped challenging him," noted Staubach, who was picked three times by Wehrli in a Cardinals 31–17 win over Dallas in St. Louis's divisional championship year of 1975. "There was no point to it."

Wehrli covered a bevy of outstanding receivers during his day: the Cowboys' Lance Alworth and Drew Pearson, Washington's Art Monk. But Wehrli reserves his highest praise for Hall of Fame receiver Charley Taylor, who, like Alworth and Taylor's fellow Redskins receiver Bobby Mitchell, was a former running back.

"I always dreaded facing him," says Wehrli, a five-time first team All-Pro. "I knew it was going to be a tough day. He was a great pattern guy. Those converted running backs bring another dimension to the position: the running after the ball, and possibly a little more toughness than regular wideouts. As a running back, you've got to know how to block and go in and mix it up. Charley had all those skills."

In addition to the Cardinals' two division titles in 1974 and '75, Wehrli experienced other major moments during his 14-year career (1969-82), but his favorite, he says, was a particular TV show he got to appear on.

"One of the big highlight moments was

the first time we played on Monday Night Football," says Wehrli. "It was against Dallas, and we beat them 38–0 in the show's first season (1970). There was Don Meredith, and of course, Howard (Cosell). But to beat them down in Dallas, when they had such a great year that year (the Cowboys went on to their first-ever Super Bowl appearance), made it one of the most memorable games, one of the biggest wins over them we ever had. It was also a game in which I got two interceptions."

In that above comment you will find the essence of Roger Wehrli. Notice that the event itself plus the magnitude of the team's victory precede Wehrli's personal accomplishments. Many players would recount the experience by starting off with the two interceptions. To Wehrli it was just the usual — doing his job, excellently.

Kind of like the way George Bailey would've done it.

Alan Ross wrote history articles for the Arizona Cardinals for 10 years. His latest book Giants Glory *will be released this fall.*

Gene Hickerson

As Joe DeLamielleure was to O.J. Simpson, so Gene Hickerson was to Jim Brown, the surging tide before the pounding destroyer.

Hickerson, one of two selections this year by the Seniors Committee, was the solid sentimental favorite of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2007. A five-time All-Pro guard, Hickerson, along with tackle Dick Schafrath, opened the running alleys for three Cleveland Browns Hall of Fame running backs (Brown, Bobby Mitchell, Leroy Kelly) during a 14-season career spanning three decades from 1958 through 1973, with one year out (1961) because of a broken leg.

The 6-3, 240-pounder impressed Cleveland head coach Paul Brown enough that the Ole Miss tackle was drafted at the end of his junior year as a "future" pick, in 1957. In his senior season with the Rebels, Hickerson was named the best offensive lineman in the Southeastern Conference. What Brown saw was a guard with the athleticism of a fullback, which in fact Hickerson was, in high school, before entering Mississippi. Part of his early lore with Cleveland was duty as one of the famed alternating messenger guards that brought Paul Brown's plays in from the bench. But Hickerson was to prove he was far more than a messenger.

"He was an unparalleled pass blocker," former Browns offensive tackle Monte Clark once noted. "His man would never get to the quarterback. He'd make the rest of us look bad. And he was one of the greatest downfield blockers I've ever seen. When he went out on a sweep, his man went down and stayed on the ground."

Hickerson's speed was a key ingredient in the famed Browns power sweep that launched Brown, Mitchell, and Kelly on big outside gains.

"Other linemen worried about getting head-slapped," Hickerson, a six-time consecutive Pro Bowler, who started in four NFL championship games, once said. "Before the defensive lineman could slap me, I'd put my headgear right into his chest — send 'em a message."

Michael Irvin

Like Crosby, Stills and Nash; Mo, Curly and Shemp Howard; and of course, the Three Musketeers, it's difficult to think of former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin without instant association to his two sidekicks, Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith, such were the dynamic collective contributions of the star-studded threesome.

Though controversies dotted his playing days and surfaced during 2006 in the form of ill-advised on-air remarks that contributed to him losing his job as an analyst at ESPN, Irvin, the Cowboys' No. 1 draft choice in 1988 out of Miami (Fla.), was a seven-time 1,000-yard receiver and a main contributor to three Cowboys Super Bowl titles in the early- to mid-1990s during his 12-year tenure in Dallas. He set an NFL mark in 1995, posting 11 games with 100 or more receiving yards; 47 times during his career he eclipsed the 100-yard mark.

PHOTO BY BRIAN BAHR /ALLSPORT

"You are in absolute awe of their talents and abilities to perform in the most crucial of circumstances," Hall of Fame coach Bill Walsh once remarked of the talented Irvin/Aikman/Smith trio. Walsh went on to surmise that if the three were split up and placed on poorer teams, they might not have produced the Hall of Fame careers (Smith is a certainty in 2010) that they ultimately enjoyed as a unit in Dallas.

"I can't write my life story without Emmitt and Troy," Irvin once said. "They can't write their life stories without me. We're tied together forever."

Smith, the league's all-time leading rusher, cited Irvin's singular characteristics that wrought success.

"He was the heart and soul of our team," Smith said of the "Playmaker." "His work ethic, charisma, and drive were what carried us to our three Super Bowl titles."

Irvin, 41, follows nine other Cowboys into Canton, with the knowledge that a goal set long ago has been fulfilled.

"I always wanted to be the very best receiver the Cowboys ever had," he once stated. "That was my goal coming in as a rookie and my goal throughout my career: being the best they ever had."

Bruce Matthews

For Bruce Matthews, it's deep in the genes.

The matter of being one of the NFL's longest-playing, most durable linemen ever was really just a case of all in the family. Matthews' father, Clay, was a four-year defensive end and tackle with San Francisco in the early- to mid-1950s. One generation down, brother Clay Jr., a linebacker, logged 19 years in the NFL, a tenure that Bruce eventually matched.

But the genetic similarities taper off after that. Hall of Fame credentials are reserved for the few, the fit, the finest. Matthews, a record-tying 14-time Pro Bowler (only Merlin Olsen had as many selections), played every position along the O-line except tight end and receiver. Another Matthews rarity: playing for only one team throughout his entire career — the Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans. Superlatives are many for the man who blocked for 15 quarterbacks and 27 running backs, including the great Earl Campbell and Oilers-Titans all-time leading ground gainer Eddie George.

PHOTO BY RICK STEWART

"Bruce was the consummate professional. I learned a lot from him," George remarked on the news of Matthews' induction. "He did everything to a T. I took that as a lesson. It was a privilege to run behind him as a running back. I brag all the time that I was able to play with Bruce."

Matthews also blocked for a Hall of Fame quarterback, Warren Moon, inducted in last year's class.

"I personally owe a lot of my success to him," said Moon. "Throwing the ball as much as we did, our offense and a lot of my success were dependent on the offensive line, and Bruce and Mike Munchak did such a great job of anchoring those lines." Munchak, Matthews' fellow line mate for 11 seasons, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2001.

Of his durability and that famous family gene pool, Matthews once said, "You can knock us around, but we continue to play."

CHARLIE SANDERS

PHOTO BY DIAMOND IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

How often we've heard the phrase, "If I had a quarter for all the times I ... " Fill in the blank.

For 2007 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee Charlie Sanders, the filled blank would read "executed a downfield block."

The prolific Detroit Lions tight end (1968-77) recalled that the moderate stipend of 25 cents was a challenge issued from his high school football coach. Sanders, not one to shy from a test let alone a financial opportunity, took it a step further.

"I kind of carried that from high school to college and from college to pro," he once said.

But blocking wasn't the only downfield skill Sanders possessed. A big target at 6-4, 230 pounds, he was nicknamed "Charlie Deep" while with the Lions, for his field-stretching receptions. Every year of his 10 NFL seasons, all with Detroit, Sanders posted double-digit figures in average yards per catch for a career 14.3 average.

"Charlie was strong enough to work against anyone in the secondary, even linebackers who had him in coverage," his quarterback in Detroit, Greg Landry, once remarked, "and he was fast enough that strong safeties had problems coping with him in the open field."

Sanders, then, had it all. For modern fans looking for a league equivalent, writer Nick Bakay has just the analogy: "Think Antonio Gates ... if he could really block," said Bakay in a Superbowl.com note on the seven-time Pro Bowler. "I mean he could kill people — as the game of his era demanded. Today, teams have two tight ends: a big grunt who can operate like an extra tackle when blocking is required, and a finesse player who can operate like a third wide receiver. Charlie was both."

Sanders seems bemused that one can have his cake and eat it too, saying: "Sometimes I think it's unfair to do something that you love so much and have so much success at, and then get rewarded at the end of your career like this."

PHOTO BY JERRY WACHTER/SPORTS IMAGERY/GETTY IMAGES

THURMAN THOMAS

So often in life, it's the little things that quietly contribute the most. With that maxim, one can readily concur with Buffalo Bills running back Thurman Thomas' induction into pro football's Valhalla.

Thomas was the dependable, versatile, non-showy back of the Bills' Super Bowl quadruplet of the early- to mid-1990s. His 16,532 total yards from scrimmage ranked sixth all-time in league annals when he retired after 13 NFL campaigns (the final one with Miami) following the 2000 season. Thomas was the perfect element in the Bills offense directed by Class of 2002 Hall of Famer, Jim Kelly.

"He was an all-purpose back," said Kelly in published remarks upon learning of his teammate's induction. "He may not have had the Barry Sanders quickness or the Super Bowl rings like Emmitt Smith, but Thurman Thomas ... brought something to the table that defenses weren't prepared for."

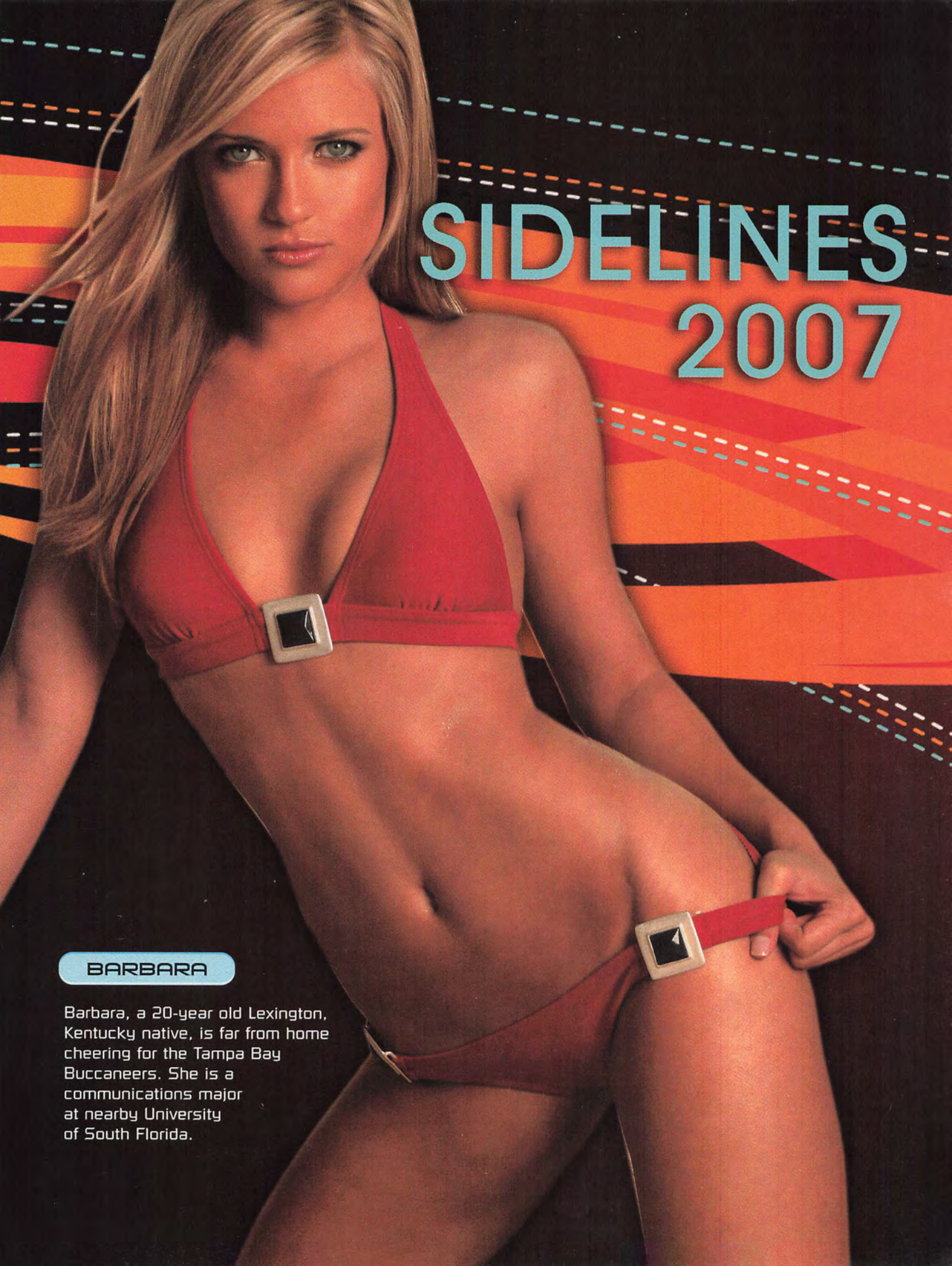
A gifted runner-receiver, Thomas made third-down plays, especially as a receiver coming out of the backfield, an art. But there was so much more to him.

"People don't realize how much blocking he did," said former Buffalo center Kent Hull. "We sent all the receivers out a lot and he was the only guy left back there if teams brought more than five. He had to block defensive ends, linebackers, cornerbacks."

"He'd hit you right between the numbers," added Kelly. "He not only was tough, he was smart. He knew every assignment and what every player did."

Blips were few on Thomas' screen, the most glaring of which was the infamous misplaced helmet gaffe to open Super Bowl XXVI. At 5-10, 198 pounds, "The Thurmanator," the NFL MVP in 1991, didn't strike fear into many opponents due to size, though his compact physique did make for one of the better quotes:

"Thurman Thomas may be a small potato," once said Hall of Fame coach Don Shula, "but he sure is tough to peel."


SIDELINES
2007
BARBARA
Barbara, a 20-year old Lexington, Kentucky native, is far from home cheering for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. She is a communications major at nearby University of South Florida.

TIFFANY

Tiffany has been a Cincinnati Ben-Gals member for two years. She loves to play basketball, read magazines, go to movies and spend time with her Malti-Poo puppy, Bentley.

MARIA

Third-year Rams Cheerleader Maria is a graphic designer. Her favorite movie is "Pretty Woman." What could be more fitting?

TARA

Tara, a fifth-year Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleader, is team captain and cheered at the 2006 Pro Bowl. In her spare time, she is a dance instructor and an independent make-up artist.

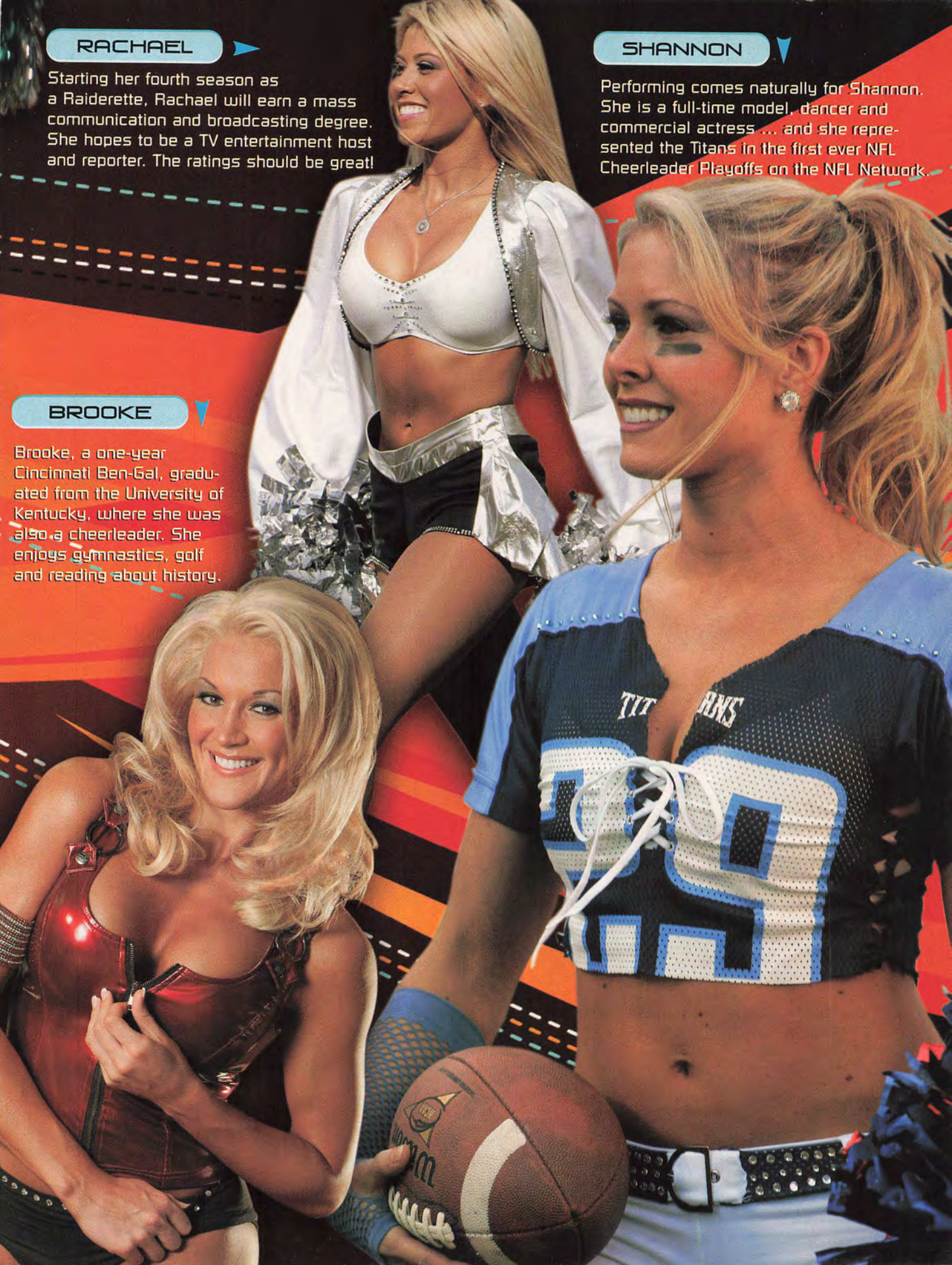
JESSICA
A home state girl from Polk County, Jessica, a marketing major, is passionate about her five years as a Tampa Bay Buccaneers Cheerleader. "I live and breathe pewter, red and black," she says.
JULIE
Julie spends her game days rooting for the Rams. The St. Louis cheerleader is a fan of Reese Witherspoon, mashed potatoes and the Halloween holiday.
DEANNA
An interior designer, Deanna has been a Cincinnati Ben-Gal for eight years. Her most memorable Ben-Gal moments – "my overseas trips to visit U.S. troops."
ABBY
A Washington Redskins Cheerleader, Abby is an Arizona Wildcat. To her, the best things about being a cheerleader are dancing and traveling. "I love to perform," she admits.

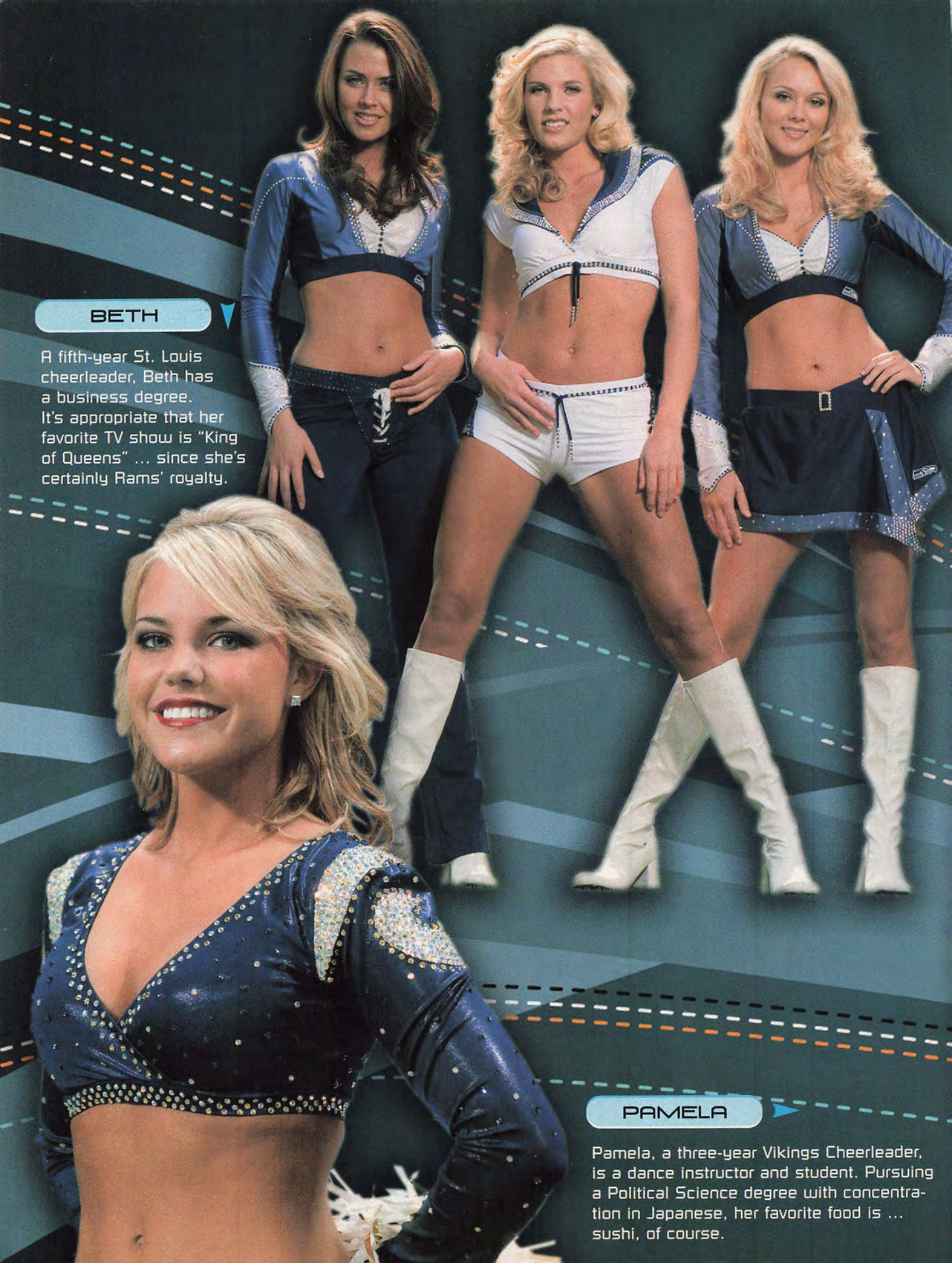
LAUREN

A three-year Miami Dolphins cheerleader, Lauren is a model and student. She loves the beach and hopes to travel to the Fiji Islands ... maybe with her shih tzu, Chipper?

HEATHER

Born in Michigan, Heather attended Florida State and graduated from Florida International. The Dolphins cheerleader loves snorkeling and boating ... and spending time with her family, now living in Florida.


RACHAEL
Starting her fourth season as a Raiderette, Rachael will earn a mass communication and broadcasting degree. She hopes to be a TV entertainment host and reporter. The ratings should be great!
SHANNON
Performing comes naturally for Shannon. She is a full-time model, dancer and commercial actress ... and she represented the Titans in the first ever NFL Cheerleader Playoffs on the NFL Network.
BROOKE
Brooke, a one-year Cincinnati Ben-Gal, graduated from the University of Kentucky, where she was also a cheerleader. She enjoys gymnastics, golf and reading about history.



BETH

A fifth-year St. Louis cheerleader, Beth has a business degree. It's appropriate that her favorite TV show is "King of Queens" ... since she's certainly Rams' royalty.

PAMELA

Pamela, a three-year Vikings Cheerleader, is a dance instructor and student. Pursuing a Political Science degree with concentration in Japanese, her favorite food is ... sushi, of course.

JOANNA, LINDSAY, STEPHANIE

Three of a kind ... that fits for these Sea-Gals. All three are students, include dancing and working out among their hobbies, and have been Seattle cheerleaders for three years.

MEGAN

Megan, a veteran Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, would like to be a sports broadcaster and a mom some day. Her favorite foods ... chips, salsa, queso, fajitas ... and sweet tea.

HEIDI

A two-year Seattle Sea-Gal, Heidi is a Boise State Bronco. She enjoys bowling, ultimate frisbee and teaching dance ... and wants to visit Italy.

THE NFL'S BEST:

Players and Units

The names change, many remain the same, but in the world of the NFL, one thing is constant: excellence.

Ranking players and units is not an exact science, and opinions vary. There are always productive players that just miss out on being on a particular list.

Having said that, this is *Lindy's* best analysis of the top players at each position, along with the best groups.

The best third receiver? It's here. The top strong-side linebacker. It's here, too.

One thing is certain: We're sure to start a lot of arguments.

QUARTERBACKS

STARTERS

1. Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	6-5	230
2. Tom Brady	New England	6-4	225
3. Carson Palmer	Cincinnati	6-5	230
4. Drew Brees	New Orleans	6-0	229
5. Marc Bulger	St. Louis	6-3	212
6. Ben Roethlisberger	Pittsburgh	6-5	241
7. Donovan McNabb	Philadelphia	6-2	240
8. Matt Hasselbeck	Seattle	6-4	223
9. Jay Cutler	Denver	6-3	233
10. Tony Romo	Dallas	6-2	225

BACKUPS

1. David Carr	Carolina	6-3	216
2. David Garrard	Jacksonville	6-1	240
3. Brian Griese	Chicago	6-3	214
4. Gus Frerotte	St. Louis	6-3	233
5. Sage Rosenfels	Houston	6-2	224
6. Billy Volek	San Diego	6-2	214
7. Trent Dilfer	San Francisco	6-4	234
8. Brad Johnson	Dallas	6-5	225
9. Kurt Warner	Arizona	6-2	222
10. Charlie Batch	Pittsburgh	6-2	216

■ **Next In Line:** Vince Young, Tennessee (AFC); Michael Vick, Atlanta (NFC) ■ **Most Underrated:** J.P. Losman, Buffalo (AFC); Jon Kitna, Detroit (NFC) ■ **On The Hot Seat:** Byron Leftwich, Jacksonville (AFC); Jake Delhomme, Carolina (NFC) ■ **Best Tandem:** Philip Rivers and Billy Volek, San Diego (AFC); Marc Bulger and Gus Frerotte, St. Louis (NFC) ■ **Best Trio:** Rex Grossman, Brian Griese and Kyle Orton, Chicago ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Matt Schaub and Sage Rosenfels, Houston (AFC); Alex Smith and Trent Dilfer, San Francisco (NFC) ■ **Best Rookie:** John Beck, Miami (AFC); Drew Stanton, Detroit (NFC) ■ **Best Overhaul:** Oakland, adding JaMarcus Russell and Josh McCown ■ **Read Between The Lines:** Brett Favre, Green Bay ■ **Riskiest Addition:** Matt Schaub, Houston (AFC); Joey Harrington, Atlanta (NFC) ■ **Breakout Season:** Damon Huard, Kansas City (AFC); Eli Manning, N.Y. Giants (NFC) ■ **Moving Upward:** J.P. Losman, Buffalo (AFC); Matt Leinart, Arizona (NFC) ■ **Last Chance:** Trent Green (AFC); Mark Brunell, Washington (NFC) ■ **Best Be Ready:** Brady Quinn, Cleveland (AFC); Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay (NFC) ■ **What's Next?:** Daunte Culpepper, Miami (AFC); Chris Simms, Tampa Bay (NFC)

WIDE RECEIVERS

BEST NO. 1

1. Torry Holt	St. Louis	6-0	190
2. Randy Moss	New England	6-4	210
3. Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	6-0	185
4. Terrell Owens	Dallas	6-3	224
5. Andre Johnson	Houston	6-3	222
6. Marques Colston	New Orleans	6-4	231
7. Chad Johnson	Cincinnati	6-1	192
8. Steve Smith	Carolina	5-9	185
9. Hines Ward	Pittsburgh	6-0	205
10. Javon Walker	Denver	6-3	209

BEST NO. 2

1. Reggie Wayne	Indianapolis	6-0	198
2. Larry Fitzgerald	Arizona	6-3	226
3. Terry Glenn	Dallas	5-11	195
4. T.J. Houshmandzadeh	Cincinnati	6-1	199
5. Bernard Berrian	Chicago	6-1	185
6. Calvin Johnson	Detroit	6-5	239
7. Donte' Stallworth	New England	6-0	196
8. Jerricho Cotchery	N.Y. Jets	6-0	207
9. Derrick Mason	Baltimore	5-10	192
10. Isaac Bruce	St. Louis	6-0	188

BEST NO. 3

1. Drew Bennett	St. Louis	6-5	206
2. Patrick Crayton	Dallas	6-0	205
3. Demetrius Williams	Baltimore	6-2	197
4. Mark Bradley	Chicago	6-2	198
5. Brandon Marshall	Denver	6-4	222
6. Bryant Johnson	Arizona	6-3	216
7. Josh Reed	Buffalo	5-10	210
8. Mike Furrey	Detroit	6-0	195
9. Maurice Stovall	Tampa Bay	6-5	220
10. Anthony Gonzalez	Indianapolis	6-0	193

■ **Most Underrated:** Vincent Jackson, San Diego (AFC); Arnaz Battle, San Francisco (NFC) ■ **Time Is Now:** Braylon Edwards, Cleveland (AFC); Troy Williamson, Minnesota (NFC) ■ **Breakout Season:** Santonio Holmes, Pittsburgh (AFC); Greg Jennings, Green Bay (NFC) ■ **Best Tandem:** Reggie Wayne and Marvin Harrison (AFC); Terry Glenn and Terrell Owens, Dallas (NFC) ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Laveranues Coles and Jerricho Cotchery, N.Y. Jets ■ **Time is Now Tandem:** Michael Jenkins and Roddy White, Atlanta ■ **Comeback Tandem:** Brian Finneran and Joe Horn, Atlanta ■ **Best Trio:** Randy Moss, Donte' Stallworth and Wes Welker, New England (AFC); Patrick Crayton, Terry Glenn and Terrell Owens, Dallas (NFC) ■ **Underrated Trio:** Mark Clayton, Derrick Mason and Demetrius Williams, Baltimore ■ **Best Foursome:** Reche Caldwell, Randy Moss, Donte' Stallworth and Wes Welker, New England (AFC); Bernard Berrian, Mark Bradley, Rashied Davis and Muhsin Muhammad, Chicago ■ **Best Rookie:** Ted Ginn Jr., Miami (AFC); Calvin Johnson, Detroit (NFC) ■ **Best Addition:** Randy Moss, New England (AFC); Calvin Johnson, Detroit (NFC) ■ **Underrated Addition:** Wes Welker, New England (AFC); Kevin Curtis, Philadelphia (NFC) ■ **Best Medical/Suspension Returnees:** Jerry Porter, Oakland (AFC); Joe Horn, Atlanta (NFC) ■ **Last Chance:** Mike Williams, Oakland (AFC); Keary Colbert, Carolina (NFC)

TIGHT ENDS/H-BACKS

1. Antonio Gates	San Diego	6-4	260
2. Tony Gonzalez	Kansas City	6-5	251
3. Todd Heap	Baltimore	6-5	252
4. Daniel Graham	Denver	6-3	257
5. Benjamin Watson	New England	6-3	255
6. Kellen Winslow	Cleveland	6-4	248
7. Randy McMichael	St. Louis	6-3	255
8. Jason Witten	Dallas	6-5	265
9. Alge Crumpler	Atlanta	6-2	262
10. Jeremy Shockey	N.Y. Giants	6-5	251

■ **Next In Line:** Dallas Clark, Indianapolis (AFC); Vernon Davis, San Francisco (NFC) ■ **Most Underrated:** Reggie Kelly, Cincinnati (AFC); Dan Campbell, Detroit (NFC) ■ **Breakout Season:** Kevin Everett, Buffalo (AFC); Leonard Pope, Arizona (NFC) ■ **Breakout Tandem:** David Martin and Justin Peelle, Miami. ■ **Best Tandem:** Kyle Brady and Ben Watson, New England (AFC); Anthony Fasano and Jason Witten, Dallas (NFC) ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Desmond Clark and Greg Olsen, Chicago ■ **Best Trio:** Jason Dunn, Tony Gonzalez and Kris Wilson, Kansas City (AFC); Mark Campbell, Eric Johnson and Billy Miller, New Orleans (NFC) ■ **Best Addition:** Daniel Graham, Denver (AFC); Eric Johnson, New Orleans, (NFC) ■ **Best Rookie:** Zach Miller, Oakland (AFC); Greg Olsen, Chicago (NFC) ■ **Bounce Back Season:** Jeb Putzier, Houston (AFC); Bubba Franks, Green Bay (NFC) ■ **Last Chance:** Chris Baker, N.Y. Jets (AFC); Jerramy Stevens, Tampa Bay (NFC)

Ranking by Team: PASSING GAME

1. NEW ENGLAND

If Randy Moss and Donte' Stallworth play to their potential, Tom Brady & Co. will be lethal. This is potentially one of the greatest group of receivers assembled with a superb supporting cast at tight end.

2. INDIANAPOLIS

Simply stated, as long as Marvin Harrison and Peyton Manning don the "horseshoe," this cast is elite. With Reggie Wayne opposite Harrison, Joseph Addai out of the backfield and tight ends that make clutch catches, defensive coordinators sweat for 60 minutes.

3. NEW ORLEANS

Drew Brees has finally etched his name among the elite. The addition of Robert Meachem and Eric Johnson provide additional weapons, while Reggie Bush proves a tough matchup for any player on the other side of the ball.

4. ST. LOUIS

Yes, the focus of the offense is the running game. However, with the league's most underrated quarterback (Marc Bulger) and the addition of Randy McMichael, the Rams have the weapons to succeed in the air.

5. DETROIT

The Lions will be entering Year Two under the tutelage of offensive coordinator Mike Martz with better receivers, depth in the backfield, and an improved offensive front that will equate to success.

Keep an eye on: Chicago

Regardless of who takes snaps, the Bears have ample

talent at the wideouts with two legit pass catches at tight end. This is the most underrated cast of receivers in the game.
Next in Line: Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, and San Francisco. Cincinnati can still strike quickly; Dallas could rank at the top of this list if Tony Romo continues to progress and T.O. focuses. Jay Cutler and Alex Smith will serve notice they're among the best of the new wave.

RUNNING BACKS

BEST NO. 1

1. LaDainian Tomlinson	San Diego	5-10	221
2. Larry Johnson	Kansas City	6-1	230
3. Shaun Alexander	Seattle	5-11	225
4. Steven Jackson	St. Louis	6-2	231
5. Brian Westbrook	Philadelphia	5-10	203
6. Frank Gore	San Francisco	5-9	215
7. Rudi Johnson	Cincinnati	5-10	214
8. Deuce McAllister	New Orleans	6-1	232
9. Clinton Portis	Washington	5-11	212
10. Willis McGahee	Baltimore	6-0	232

BEST NO. 2

1. Reggie Bush	New Orleans	6-0	203
2. Marion Barber	Dallas	6-0	220
3. Michael Turner	San Diego	5-10	237
4. Maurice Jones-Drew	Jacksonville	5-7	212
5. Jerious Norwood	Atlanta	6-0	203
6. *Ricky Williams	Miami	5-10	226
7. Leon Washington	N.Y. Jets	5-8	202
8. Ladell Betts	Washington	5-10	223
9. DeAngelo Williams	Carolina	5-9	217
10. Michael Pittman	Tampa Bay	6-0	228

*Subject to reinstatement

■ **Next in Line:** Willie Parker (No. 1), Pittsburgh and Mike Anderson (No. 2), Baltimore (AFC); Reuben Droughns (No. 2), N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Michael Turner and LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego (AFC); Reggie Bush and Deuce McAllister, New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated Tandem:** Thomas Jones and Leon Washington, N.Y. Jets (AFC); Adrian Peterson and Chester Taylor, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie Tandem:** Marshawn Lynch and Dwayne Wright, Buffalo. ■ **Bounce Back Tandem:** DeShaun Foster and DeAngelo Williams, Carolina (NFC). ■ **Best Trio:** Lorenzo Booker, Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams, Miami (AFC); Reggie Bush, Deuce McAllister and Antonio Pittman, New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Underrated Trio:** Marshawn Lynch, Anthony Thomas and Dwayne Wright, Buffalo (AFC); Tatum Bell, T.J. Duckett and Kevin Jones, Detroit (NFC). ■ **Best Rookies:** Marshawn Lynch, Buffalo (AFC); Adrian Peterson, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Best Addition:** Willis McGahee, Baltimore (AFC); Adrian Peterson, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** LenDale White, Tennessee (AFC); Cedric Benson, Chicago (NFC). ■ **Bounce Back Season:** Ahman Green, Houston (AFC); Edgerrin James, Arizona (NFC). ■ **Time Is Now:** Laurence Maroney, New England (AFC); Brandon Jacobs, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Last Chance:** Chris Perry, Cincinnati (AFC); Eric Shelton, Carolina (NFC). ■ **Keep An Eye On:** Michael Bush, Oakland (AFC); Brandon Jackson, Green Bay (NFC). ■ **Key Returning Injured Stars:** LaMont Jordan, Oakland (AFC); Kevin Jones, Detroit (NFC)

FULLBACKS

BLOCKERS

1. Lorenzo Neal	San Diego	5-11	255
2. Mike Karney	New Orleans	5-11	258
3. Jeremi Johnson	Cincinnati	5-11	260
4. Kyle Johnson	Denver	6-0	242
5. Dan Kreider	Pittsburgh	5-11	255
6. Tony Richardson	Minnesota	6-1	238
7. Ovie Mughelli	Atlanta	6-1	255
8. Terrelle Smith	Arizona	6-0	246
9. Jim Finn	N.Y. Giants	6-0	245
10. Moran Norris	San Francisco	6-2	250

ALL-PURPOSE

1. Justin Griffith	Oakland	5-11	235
2. Brad Hoover	Carolina	6-0	245
3. Zack Crockett	Oakland	6-2	240
4. Jason McKie	Chicago	5-11	243
5. Heath Evans	New England	6-0	250

■ **Next In Line:** Vonta Leach, Houston (AFC); Mack Strong, Seattle (NFC). ■ **Underrated:** Ahmard Hall, Tennessee (AFC); Madison Hedgecock, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Future Factor:** Le'Ron McClain, Baltimore (NFC); Leonard Weaver, Seattle (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Justin Green and Le'Ron McClain, Baltimore (AFC); Mack Strong and Leonard Weaver, Seattle (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Le'Ron McClain, Baltimore (AFC); Jason Snelling, Atlanta (NFC). ■ **Best Addition:** Justin Griffith, Oakland (AFC); Terrelle Smith, Arizona (NFC)

Ranking by Team: RUNNING GAME

1. SAN DIEGO

LaDainian Tomlinson, Michael Turner, LaDainian Tomlinson, Michael Turner and LaDainian Tomlinson.

2. NEW ORLEANS

The Saints' trio of Deuce McAllister, Reggie Bush and Antonio Pittman combined with fullback Mike Karney is the Ying to their Yang (Drew Brees). By the way, the disciplined offensive line is underrated as well.

3. JACKSONVILLE

Assuming that Fred Taylor has enough in the tank for another year of abuse, he'll team with Maurice Jones-Drew behind rugged blocking to produce one of the most physical running attacks in the game.

4. ATLANTA

With Jerious Norwood emerging last season offering Warrick Dunn a blow, the Falcons' running game remains strong. The presence of Michael Vick and addition of Ovie Mughelli can't be underestimated.

5. ST. LOUIS

Yes, the Rams are known for a high-flying passing game, but they have re-focused on the running game. Don't overlook Steve Jackson and new backfield mate Brian Leonard.
Keep an eye on: Kansas City
With Larry Johnson taking the handoff, including the Chiefs in the top five would've been easy, but there are issues to address: the lack of a proven backup, questions at fullback and an offensive line in transition.
Next in Line: Dallas, Pittsburgh, Seattle and Washington. Julius Jones and Marion Barber are a legit tandem worthy of placing the Cowboys in the top five. The Steelers' offensive line will ensure rushing success.

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

LEFT SIDE

1. Walter Jones	Seattle	6-5	315
2. Orlando Pace	St. Louis	6-7	325
3. Jonathan Ogden	Baltimore	6-9	345
4. Tarik Glenn	Indianapolis	6-5	332
5. Jammal Brown	New Orleans	6-6	313
6. Chris Samuels	Washington	6-5	310
7. Jason Peters	Buffalo	6-4	340
8. Marvel Smith	Pittsburgh	6-5	321
9. Levi Jones	Cincinnati	6-5	307
10. Flozell Adams	Dallas	6-7	340

RIGHT SIDE

1. Willie Anderson	Cincinnati	6-5	340
2. Jordan Gross	Carolina	6-4	300
3. Mark Tauscher	Green Bay	6-3	315
4. Max Starks	Pittsburgh	6-8	337
5. Todd Weiner	Atlanta	6-4	297
6. Marc Colombo	Dallas	6-8	320
7. Kareem McKenzie	N.Y. Giants	6-6	327
8. Ryan Diem	Indianapolis	6-6	320
9. Jon Runyan	Philadelphia	6-7	330
10. Jon Stinchcomb	New Orleans	6-5	315

■ **Next In Line:** Marcus McNeill, San Diego (AFC); Bryant McKinnie, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Willie Anderson and Levi Jones, Cincinnati (AFC); Jammal Brown and Jon Stinchcomb, New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Best Trio:** Ryan Diem, Tarik Glenn, Charlie Johnson, Indianapolis (AFC); Winston Justice, Jon Runyan, William Thomas, Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Joe Thomas, Cleveland (AFC); Levi Brown, Arizona (NFC). ■ **Best Addition:** Joe Thomas, Cleveland (AFC); Luke Petitgout, Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Vernon Carey, Miami (AFC); Alex Barron, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Last Chance:** Robert Galley, Oakland (AFC)

OFFENSIVE GUARDS

LEFT SIDE

1. Steve Hutchinson	Minnesota	6-5	313
2. Alan Faneca	Pittsburgh	6-5	307
3. Brian Waters	Kansas City	6-3	318
4. Eric Steinbach	Cleveland	6-6	290
5. Kris Dielman	San Diego	6-4	310
6. Larry Allen	San Francisco	6-3	325
7. Mike Wahle	Carolina	6-6	304
8. Shawn Andrews	Philadelphia	6-4	340
9. Derrick Dockery	Buffalo	6-6	330
10. Logan Mankins	New England	6-4	310

RIGHT SIDE

1. Chris Snee	N.Y. Giants	6-3	317
2. Randy Thomas	Washington	6-5	310
3. Deuce Lutui	Arizona	6-4	338
4. Kynan Forney	Atlanta	6-3	307
5. Stephen Neal	New England	6-4	305
6. Damien Woody	Detroit	6-3	340
7. Richie Incognito	St. Louis	6-3	305
8. Chris Naeole	Jacksonville	6-3	330
9. L.J. Shelton	Miami	6-6	345
10. Jake Scott	Indianapolis	6-5	295

■ **Next In Line:** Ben Hamilton (LG), Denver and Bobbie Williams, Cincinnati (AFC); Jahri Evans (RG), New Orleans and Reggie Wells (LG), Arizona (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Logan Mankins and Stephen Neal, New England (AFC); Deuce Lutui and Reggie Wells, Arizona (NFC). ■ **Best Trio:** Rick DeMulling, Ryan Lilja and Jake Scott, Indianapolis (AFC); Shawn Andrews, Todd Herremans, Max Jean-Gilles, Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Best Addition:** Eric Steinbach, Cleveland (AFC); Edwin Mulitalo, Detroit (NFC). ■ **Best Rookies:** Ben Grubbs, Baltimore (AFC); Arron Sears, Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Paul McQuistan, Oakland (AFC); Richie Incognito, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated:** Andrew Whitworth, Cincinnati (AFC); Jahri Evans, New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Underrated Duo:** Vince Manuwai and Chris Naeole, Jacksonville (AFC); Shawn Andrews and Todd Herremans, Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Future Stars:** Andrew Whitworth, Cincinnati (AFC); Deuce Lutui, Arizona (NFC)

CENTERS

1. Jeff Saturday	Indianapolis	6-2	295
2. Olin Kreutz	Chicago	6-2	292
3. Nick Hardwick	San Diego	6-4	295
4. Nick Mangold	N.Y. Jets	6-4	300
5. Matt Birk	Minnesota	6-4	309
6. Rex Hadnot	Miami	6-2	325
7. Kevin Mawae	Tennessee	6-4	289
8. Dan Koppen	New England	6-2	296
9. Jeff Faine	New Orleans	6-3	291

10. Tom Nalen	Denver	6-3	286

■ **Next In Line:** Melvin Fowler (AFC), Buffalo; Andre Gurode, Dallas (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Sean Mahan and Chukky Okobi, Pittsburgh (AFC); Jeff Faine and Jonathan Goodwin, New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Best Interior:** Dan Koppen (C); Logan Mankins and Stephen Neal, New England (AFC); Matt Birk (C), Artis Hicks, Steve Hutchinson, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Underrated Interior:** Jacob Bell, Kevin Mawae (C), Benji Olson, Tennessee (AFC); Shawn Andrews, Todd Herremans, Jamaal Jackson (C), Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Leroy Harris, Tennessee; Ryan Kalil, Carolina (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** Sean Mahan, Pittsburgh (AFC); Al Johnson, Arizona (AFC). ■ **Future Stars:** Chris Chester, Baltimore (AFC); Chris Spencer, Seattle (NFC). ■ **Bounce Back:** Jake Grove, Oakland (AFC); Justin Hartwig, Carolina (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated:** Melvin Fowler, Buffalo (AFC); Dominic Raiola, Detroit (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Jake Grove, Oakland (AFC); Scott Wells, Green Bay (NFC). ■ **Last Chance:** Jeremy Newberry, Oakland

Ranking by Team: OFFENSIVE LINE

1. INDIANAPOLIS

With the development of guards Ryan Lilja and Jake Scott, the unit has melded into the elite range. Tackle Tarik Glenn and center Jeff Saturday were dominant at times. Keep an eye on Charlie Johnson; he played well filling in for Ryan Diem.

2. PHILADELPHIA

The leaders are tackles Jon Runyan and William Thomas, with an interior of guards Shawn Andrews and Todd Herremans and center Jamaal Jackson. The latter three have played a combined nine seasons, and will only get better.

3. NEW ORLEANS

While Drew Brees and Reggie Bush stole the spotlight, it was the Saints' offensive line that proved the key to success. Jammal Brown and Jon Stinchcomb rank as the league's most underrated tandem. Center Jeff Faine is hardcore and guard Jahri Evans a budding star.

4. CINCINNATI

This selection is based more on its body of work more than 2006 performance. At times, a rock-solid run-blocking cast failed to open holes and the top-drawer tackles permitted more flank pressure than expected. Despite the loss of Eric Steinbach, this group should rebound.

5. SAN DIEGO

The left side of the Chargers' offensive front became a wall that few defenders penetrated. LG Kris Dielman has become a star, and LT Marcus McNeill is on his way. Center Nick Hardwick superbly anchors this cast.

Keep an eye on: Tennessee

The Titans have a band of no-names surrounding center Kevin Mawae. The fact of the matter is the names of Jacob Bell, Michael Roos and David Stewart have introduced themselves to the opposition.

Next in Line: Chicago, Dallas, Denver, New England, N.Y. Giants and Pittsburgh. Both Minnesota and Washington were considered, but the inconsistent play of key components was the determining factors in their omission. The Bears' veteran cast plays well as a unit, but might have just one year remaining in the tank. Dallas could catapult into the top five.

DEFENSIVE ENDS

LEFT SIDE

1. Julius Peppers	Carolina	6-7	283
2. Leonard Little	St. Louis	6-3	261
3. Michael Strahan	N.Y. Giants	6-5	275
4. Aaron Kampman	Green Bay	6-4	270
5. Trevor Pryce	Baltimore	6-5	286
6. Will Smith	New Orleans	6-3	282
7. Luis Castillo	San Diego	6-3	290
8. Robert Mathis	Indianapolis	6-2	245
9. Bryant Young	San Francisco	6-3	297
10. Justin Smith	Cincinnati	6-4	275

RIGHT SIDE

1. Richard Seymour	New England	6-6	310
2. Dwight Freeney	Indianapolis	6-1	268
3. Charles Grant	New Orleans	6-3	290
4. Derrick Burgess	Oakland	6-2	260
5. Jared Allen	Kansas City	6-6	270
6. Aaron Schobel	Buffalo	6-4	243
7. Mario Williams	Houston	6-6	293
8. Osi Umenyiora	N.Y. Giants	6-3	261
9. Dewayne White	Detroit	6-2	273
10. Robert Geathers	Cincinnati	6-3	265

■ **Next In Line:** Shaun Ellis (LE), N.Y. Jets and Reggie Hayward (RE), Jacksonville; Patrick Kerney (LE), Seattle and Simeon Rice (RE), Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis, Indianapolis (AFC); Charles Grant and Will Smith, New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated Tandem:** Robert Geathers and Justin Smith, Cincinnati (AFC); Cullen Jenkins and Aaron Kampman, Green Bay (NFC). ■ **Best Trio:** Dwight Freeney, Robert Mathis and Josh Thomas, Indianapolis (AFC); Mark Anderson, Alex Brown and Adewale Ogunleye, Chicago (NFC). ■ **Underrated Trio:** Reggie Hayward, Bobby McCray and Paul Spicer, Jacksonville (AFC); Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, Cullen Jenkins and Aaron Kampman, Green Bay (NFC). ■ **Best Rookies:** Tim Crowder and Jarvis Moss, Denver (AFC); Gaines Adams, Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** Kenyon Coleman, N.Y. Jets (AFC); Dewayne White, Detroit (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Matt Roth (LE), Miami and Jason Babin (RE), Houston (AFC); Marcus Spears (LE), Dallas and Ray Edwards (RE), Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Underrated:** Aaron Smith, Pittsburgh (AFC); Cullen Jenkins, Green Bay (NFC). ■ **Last Chance:** Michael Haynes, N.Y. Jets (AFC); James Hall, St. Louis (NFC)

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

1. Kevin Williams	Minnesota	6-5	311
2. John Henderson	Jacksonville	6-7	325
3. Tommie Harris	Chicago	6-3	295
4. Rod Coleman	Atlanta	6-2	285
5. Marcus Stroud	Jacksonville	6-6	306
6. Warren Sapp	Oakland	6-2	300
7. Cory Redding	Detroit	6-4	295
8. Kris Jenkins	Carolina	6-4	335
9. Fred Robbins	N.Y. Giants	6-4	317
10. Ryan Pickett	Green Bay	6-2	322

NOSE TACKLES

1. Casey Hampton	Pittsburgh	6-1	325
2. Vince Wilfork	New England	6-2	325
3. Jamal Williams	San Diego	6-3	348
4. Pat Williams	Minnesota	6-3	317
5. Shaun Rogers	Detroit	6-4	340
6. Kelly Gregg	Baltimore	6-0	310
7. Ted Washington	Cleveland	6-5	365
8. Dewayne Robertson	N.Y. Jets	6-1	317
9. Jason Ferguson	Dallas	6-3	310
10. Kendrick Clancy	Arizona	6-1	305

■ **Next In Line:** Terdell Sands (DT), Oakland and Keith Traylor (NT), Miami (AFC); Cornelius Griffin (DT), Washington and Chris Hovan (NT), Tampa Bay. ■ **Best Tandem:** John Henderson and Marcus Stroud, Jacksonville (AFC); Kevin Williams and Pat Williams, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Cory Redding and Shaun Rogers, Detroit (NFC). ■ **Best Backup Tandem:** John McCargo and Larry Tripplett, Buffalo (AFC); Sam Rayburn and Montae Reagor, Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Amobi Okoye, Houston (AFC); Justin Harrell, Green Bay (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** Amobi Okoye, Houston (AFC); Ryan Sims, Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Comeback Season:** Albert Haynesworth, Tennessee (AFC); Kendrick Clancy, Arizona (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Shaun Smith, Cleveland (AFC); Barry Cofield, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Last Chance:** Manuel Wright, Buffalo (AFC); Jimmy Kennedy, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated:** Terdell Sands, Oakland (AFC); Fred Robbins, N.Y. Giants (NFC)

Ranking by Team: DEFENSIVE LINE

1. CAROLINA

If Kris Jenkins can continue upwardly recovering from two lost seasons and Mike Rucker has another year in the tank, the total of the parts mandates leading this list. The Panthers have the deepest interior cast in the game.

2. CHICAGO

A superior group of defensive ends bolstered by Tommie Harris inside demands the top ranking. Tank Johnson is an underrated player that creates havoc. The group is skilled and well drilled.

3. N.Y. GIANTS

This might be the most underrated unit in the NFL. Yes, Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora get the ink, but the cast includes a vastly underrated interior tandem in Fred Robbins and Barry Cofield. The depth is respectable, yet the starting four might be the best in the game when healthy.

4. NEW ORLEANS

Like the Giants, the depth is thin, but the starting cast is worthy of a lofty ranking. Charles Grant and Will Smith are the best set of bookends in the business. Inside, Hollis Thomas is a steady force while Brian Young is the most unappreciated interior playmaker in the game.

5. MINNESOTA

Kevin and Pat Williams rank as the best inside tandem assembled in memory. That noted, this is a projection selection based on expected breakout seasons for Erasmus James and Kenechi Udeze. Ray Edwards is developing player of note.

Keep an eye on: New England

The Pats starting trio of Richard Seymour, Ty Warren and Vince Wilfork is top notch, but the backups haven't progressed as expected hence injuries could prove significantly problematic.

Next in Line: Baltimore, Buffalo, Detroit, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Oakland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Diego and Tennessee. The Raiders have the most underrated collection of line talent. If Darwin Walker produces, Buffalo will surprise. Baltimore and Pittsburgh remain solid, while the Eagles have the most enigmatic group.

LINEBACKERS

MIDDLE/INSIDE LINEBACKERS

1. Ray Lewis	Baltimore	6-1	250
2. Brian Urlacher	Chicago	6-4	258
3. D.J. Williams	Denver	6-1	242
4. James Farrior	Pittsburgh	6-2	243
5. Kirk Morrison	Oakland	6-2	240
6. London Fletcher	Washington	5-10	245
7. Bart Scott	Baltimore	6-2	240
8. Keith Brooking	Atlanta	6-2	245
9. Nick Barnett	Green Bay	6-2	232
10. Zach Thomas	Miami	5-11	228
11. Antonio Pierce	N.Y. Giants	6-1	238
12. DeMeco Ryans	Houston	6-1	239
13. Will Witherspoon	St. Louis	6-1	234
14. Lofa Tatupu	Seattle	6-0	238
15. Mike Vrabel	New England	6-4	261

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

SAM/STRONG SIDE

1. Shawne Merriman	San Diego	6-4	272
2. Jason Taylor	Miami	6-6	255
3. Adalius Thomas	New England	6-2	270
4. Marcus Washington	Washington	6-3	250
5. Terrell Suggs	Baltimore	6-3	260
6. Greg Ellis	Dallas	6-6	270
7. Derrick Johnson	Kansas City	6-3	242
8. Bryan Thomas	N.Y. Jets	6-4	266
9. Cato June	Tampa Bay	6-0	227
10. Michael Boley	Atlanta	6-3	236

WILL/WEAK SIDE

1. Keith Bulluck	Tennessee	6-3	235
2. Julian Peterson	Seattle	6-3	235
3. Lance Briggs	Chicago	6-1	240
4. A.J. Hawk	Green Bay	6-1	247
5. DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	6-4	257
6. Shaun Phillips	San Diego	6-3	262
7. Donnie Edwards	Kansas City	6-2	224
8. Derrick Brooks	Tampa Bay	6-0	235
9. Joey Porter	Miami	6-3	250
10. Kamerion Wimbley	Cleveland	6-3	245

■ **Next In Line:** Thomas Howard (WLB), Oakland; Mike Peterson (I), Jacksonville and David Thornton (SLB), Tennessee (AFC); Dan Morgan (I), Carolina, Manny Lawson (SLB), San Francisco and Ernie Sims (WLB), Detroit (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Ray Lewis (I) and Terrell Suggs (O), Baltimore (AFC); Brian Urlacher (I) and Lance Briggs (O), Chicago (NFC). ■ **Inside Tandem:** Ray Lewis and Bart Scott, Baltimore (AFC); Brandon Moore and Patrick Willis, San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Outside Tandem:** Shawne Merriman and Shaun Phillips, San Diego (AFC); Leroy Hill and Julian Peterson, Seattle (NFC). ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Thomas Howard (O) and Kirk Morrison (I), Oakland; Nick Barnett (I) and A.J. Hawk (O), Green Bay (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** David Harris (ILB), N.Y. Jets and Paul Posluszny (OLB), Buffalo (AFC); Anthony Spencer (OLB), Dallas; Patrick Willis (ILB), San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** Ryan Fowler (I), Tennessee and Joey Porter (O), Miami (AFC); London Fletcher (I), Washington and Cato June (O), Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Ryan Fowler (I), Tennessee and Landon Johnson (O), Cincinnati (AFC); Mathias Kiwanuka (O), N.Y. Giants and Barrett Rudd (I), Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Underrated:** Bryan Thomas (O), N.Y. Jets and Leon Williams (I), Cleveland (AFC); Michael Boley (O), Atlanta and Brian Simmons (I), New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Last Chance:** Ed Hartwell (I), Cincinnati (AFC); Karlos Dansby (O), Arizona (NFC). ■ **Bounce Back Year:** David Thornton (O), Tennessee (AFC); Bradie James (ILB), Dallas and Takeo Spikes (OLB), Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Time Is Now:** Angelo Crowell (I), Buffalo (AFC); Leroy Hill (O), Seattle (NFC). ■ **Biding Time:** Miami's Channing Crowder (AFC) is a future star when he moves inside as will be Philadelphia's Omar Gaither (NFC)

Ranking by Team: LINEBACKERS

1. BALTIMORE

Ray Lewis and Bart Scott are a dynamic duo on the inside with Terrell Suggs harassing quarterbacks from the perimeter. If Dan Cody can remain healthy and elevate his game pushing Jarret Johnson, this is an elite cast.

2. CHICAGO

While the presence of Brian Urlacher and Lance Briggs justifies this lofty ranking, overall this might be the most disciplined unit in the game.

3. SEATTLE

This group is the backbone of the Seahawks defense. Lofa Tatupu is pound-for-pound one of the best inside linebackers in the game, while Julian Peterson is a true difference-maker. Expect Leroy Hill to take his game to the next level.

4. MIAMI

The Dolphins mix and match defenses, but a linebacker corps that is anchored by Zach Thomas and will also have Jason Taylor and Joey Porter on the outside is difficult to handle.

5. SAN DIEGO

While question marks abound on the interior of this unit, Shawne Merriman and Shaun Phillips are downright awesome.

Keep an eye on: Washington

London Fletcher will call Gregg Williams' defense to perfection. Marcus Washington remains among the most underrated players in the NFL. Keep an eye on Rocky McIntosh. Lemar Marshall provides superb depth.

Next in Line: Atlanta, Dallas, Kansas City, New England, N.Y. Jets, Oakland, San Francisco, and Tennessee.

There was no coincidence the Cowboys' run-defense and pass-rush lapse coincided with Greg Ellis being sidelined. With a new coaching staff, a healthy Ellis and DeMarcus Ware ... should the Cowboys' interior 'backers succeed, this is a top three-unit. The Chiefs' revamped linebacking corps is intriguing.

CORNERBACKS

NO. 1

1. Antoine Winfield	Minnesota	5-9	180
2. Nate Clements	San Francisco	6-1	209
3. Ronde Barber	Tampa Bay	5-10	184
4. Champ Bailey	Denver	6-0	192
5. Chris McAlister	Baltimore	6-1	206
6. Asante Samuel	New England	5-10	185
7. Rashean Mathis	Jacksonville	6-1	195
8. Terance Newman	Dallas	5-11	195
9. Quentin Jammer	San Diego	6-0	204
10. Al Harris	Green Bay	6-1	188

NO. 2

1. Charles Woodson	Green Bay	6-1	200
2. Brian Kelly	Tampa Bay	5-11	193
3. Dre' Bly	Denver	5-10	188
4. Walt Harris	San Francisco	5-11	192
5. Fabian Washington	Oakland	5-11	185
6. Lito Sheppard	Philadelphia	5-10	194
7. Jason David	New Orleans	5-8	180
8. Brian Williams	Jacksonville	5-11	198
9. Patrick Surtain	Kansas City	5-11	195
10. Bryant McFadden	Pittsburgh	6-0	190

■ **Next In Line:** Dunta Robinson, Houston (AFC); DeAngelo Hall, Atlanta (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Champ Bailey and Dre' Bly, Denver (AFC); Nate Clements and Walt Harris, San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Best Trio:** Ellis Hobbs, Tory James and Asante Samuel, New England (AFC); Carlos Rogers, Fred Smoot and Shawn Springs, Washington (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Darrelle Revis, N.Y. Jets (AFC); Josh Wilson, Seattle (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** Dre' Bly, Denver (AFC); Nate Clements, San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Bryant McFadden, Pittsburgh (AFC); Antrel Rolle, Arizona (NFC). ■ **Comeback Season:** Samari Rolle, Baltimore (AFC); Fred Smoot, Washington (NFC). ■ **Underrated:** Johnathan Joseph, Cincinnati (AFC); Richard Marshall, Carolina (NFC)

SAFETIES

FREE SAFETIES

1. Bob Sanders	Indianapolis	5-8	206
2. Ed Reed	Baltimore	5-11	200
3. Brian Dawkins	Philadelphia	6-0	210
4. Sean Taylor	Washington	6-2	232
5. Madieu Williams	Cincinnati	6-1	203
6. Will Demps	N.Y. Giants	6-0	208
7. John Lynch	Denver	6-2	220
8. Ken Hamlin	Dallas	6-2	209
9. Marlon McCree	San Diego	5-11	202
10. Deon Grant	Seattle	6-2	210

STRONG SAFETIES

1. Troy Polamalu	Pittsburgh	5-10	207
2. Chris Hope	Tennessee	6-0	208
3. Adrian Wilson	Arizona	6-3	230
4. Rodney Harrison	New England	6-1	220
5. Roy Williams	Dallas	6-0	229
6. Gibril Wilson	N.Y. Giants	6-0	209
7. Kerry Rhodes	N.Y. Jets	6-3	210
8. Michael Lewis	San Francisco	6-1	222
9. Yeremiah Bell	Miami	6-0	200
10. Dawan Landry	Baltimore	6-0	220

■ **Next In Line:** Antoine Bethea, Indianapolis and Michael Huff, Oakland (AFC); Lawyer Milloy, Atlanta (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Antoine Bethea and Bob Sanders, Indianapolis (AFC); Ken Hamlin and Roy Williams, Dallas (NFC). ■ **Underrated:** Sean Jones (SS), Cleveland and Anthony Smith (FS), Pittsburgh. ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Ko Simpson (FS) and Donte Whitner (SS), Buffalo. ■ **Best Rookie:** Michael Griffin (FS), Tennessee; LaRon Landry (SS), Washington (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** Michael Griffin (FS), Tennessee; Ken Hamlin (FS), Dallas (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Bernard Pollard, Kansas City (AFC); Sean Considine, Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Comeback Season:** Donovin Darius, Jacksonville (AFC); Adam Archuleta, Chicago (NFC)

Ranking by Team: SECONDARY

1. BALTIMORE

Teams that are strong up the middle ... win, regardless of the sport. Safeties Ed Reed and Dawan Landry roam the middle with the best. Chris McAlister remains a playmaker.

2. DENVER

The Broncos tragically lost cornerback Darrent Williams, but replaced him with Dre' Bly to go with Champ Bailey, the best in the NFL. Dominique Foxworth is a very good nickel back, and John Lynch still has plenty left in him at safety.

3. CHICAGO

The Bears have the luxury of quality depth. While the Bears lack "marquee names," they have a secondary that goes legitimately eight-deep with players.

4. PHILADELPHIA

Safety Brian Dawkins is getting up in years, but still has to be respected. Cornerbacks Lito Sheppard and Sheldon Brown remain high-quality starters, and William James is ticketed for the departed Rod Hood's job in the nickel.

5. WASHINGTON

This selection might surprise some. However, NFL insiders like this group, pointing to the Redskins going four-deep at cornerback and what could be the most physical pair of safeties since the glory days of the Raiders in the 1970s.

Keep an eye on: Green Bay

The Packers' cornerbacks, Al Harris and Charles Woodson, still have "A" games. The Packers' safeties underachieved, but have the skills to make plays. The Packers have bolstered their depth. This is a projection selection based on potential.

Next in Line: Buffalo, Carolina, Cincinnati, Dallas, N.Y. Jets, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Tampa Bay. Buffalo boasts one of the best young safety tandems in the NFL with an abundance of potential at cornerback. The Buccaneers offer a veteran unit with bounce-back potential to rate higher.

2007

NFL DRAFT

From Russell to Robinson

By Barry Wilner

ARIZONA CARDINALS

B

1 (5) Levi Brown, T, Penn State
Smart, big with good movement, his stock shot up in the last two months before the draft ... Really moves well for a 323-pounder, and he probably could add some weight ... Good work ethic ... Has had some knee woes, but he checked out fine in NFL physicals ... Biggest problems came against stronger DTs, but he didn't really struggle.

2 (33) Alan Branch, DT, Michigan
Some scouts felt he was lazy at Michigan, others believed he wasn't always in best of shape ... But no denying his talent at 6-5, 334, to stop the run and clog up the middle ... Has enough burst to be a threat as a pass rusher up the middle ... Not as disciplined on and off the field as he needs to be, but seems to want to be good.

3 (69) Buster Davis, LB, Florida State
Short but stout and a hellacious hitter ... Moves well, but also can be knocked down by one blocker ... Can over-pursue, but also can recover ... Certainly could be a dynamic cover guy on kicks and probably a good blocker on returns.

5 (142) Steve Breaston, WR/KR, Michigan
A disappointment in Michigan's huge season, he never was the big playmaker people expected ... Came on at East-West Game and has the versatility to play flanker, split end or in the slot ... Could contribute as punt returner, but must get stronger.

7 (215) Ben Patrick, TE, Delaware
Transfer from Duke who was dynamic in I-AA ... Gets free, especially over the middle, and catches the ball ... Pretty strong, but not a great blocker ... Won't go deep ... Should be solid contributor in time for Cardinals, but needs a lot of time.

Good Move: The Cardinals desperately needed a blocker and Brown should fill a big hole at tackle.

Tell Me Why: They hardly need another receiver, particularly an underachiever like Breaston.

Could Surprise: Patrick has the tools to be a starter down the road.

ATLANTA FALCONS

A

1 (8) Jamaal Anderson, DE, Arkansas
Left Hogs after junior season ... A bit inexperienced, but has come on and knows how to get sacks ... Was a lot lighter at Arkansas than he is now and projects to play at about 285 ... Concentration can lag, especially on running plays ... Has long arms and blocks passes.

2 (39) Justin Blalock, G, Texas
Strong, powerful and always in the lineup at Texas ... One of the key cogs in the national championship of 2005 ... Played tackle for Longhorns, but more likely will be a guard in Atlanta ... Can add some bulk ... Had some weight issues, but showed up in good shape for off-season workouts ... With improved technique, could start this season.

2 (41) Chris Houston, CB, Arkansas
Mixed bag of opinions on him ... Some scouts believe Houston is a workout guy, others see a real fine prospect ... Falcons have to like his speed (4.32) and instincts ... Good in man coverage, but also a bit cocky about it ... Drops the ball ... Has to be better fundamentally or will get burned for long balls or penalties.

3 (75) Laurent Robinson, WR, Illinois State
A Division I-AA standout who went to combine and looked like a Division I-A All-American ... Fast, with good measurables and strength ... Showed he can run a variety of patterns with precision ... Can get into the end zone, but also can be knocked down on first hit ... Makes the catches, but also fumbles the ball ... Had ankle injury in school.

4 (109) Stephen Nicholas, LB, South Florida
Work ethic skyrocketed his stock ... Instinctive player who gets to the ball ... On the small side, but that isn't unusual for some NFL linebackers with his tools ... Should be a factor immediately on special teams.

4 (133) Martrez Milner, TE, Georgia
An underachiever who only started as a senior ... Bad hands ... Can block and that will need to be his calling card in Atlanta if he puts more energy into it ... Needs work on the fundamentals, too ... A reach.

6 (185) Trey Lewis, DT, Washburn
Gets high marks for a Division II guy ... Some scouts believe he could have excelled at top level, too ... Moves very well and is versatile ... Needs to upgrade technique ... Has some trouble bringing down QBs when he reaches them.

6 (194) David Irons, CB, Auburn
Comes off surprisingly strong Senior Bowl week, which got his stock moving upward and got him drafted ... Likes press coverage and to get physical with wideouts ... Not bad against the run, either ... If he was a bit bigger, would fit nicely as a free safety ... A bit raw, but lots of upside.

6 (198) Doug Datish, C/G, Ohio State
Can long snap ... Smart player who rarely makes mistakes, but is not real athletic ... Probably better suited to play guard if he can bulk up ... Will need time to develop at whatever position he tries.

6 (203) Daren Stone, S, Maine
Versatile player not likely to play cornerback in pros ... Tall (6-3), but not a leaper and not particularly physical ... Did not face great competition in Division I-AA, although he did play New Hampshire and record-setting WR David Ball.

7 (244) Jason Snelling, FB, Virginia
A good runner and an effective blocker with a nice build ... Has a good motor ... Likes to knock defenders flat ... Will do well on short-yardage runs, but not much beyond that ... Could help on special teams ... Was diagnosed with epilepsy in high school.

Good Move: Blalock, Houston and Nicholas were real values.

Tell Me Why: How about a young QB to push Michael Vick?

Could Surprise: Irons could help immediately; certainly should be a contributor down the road.

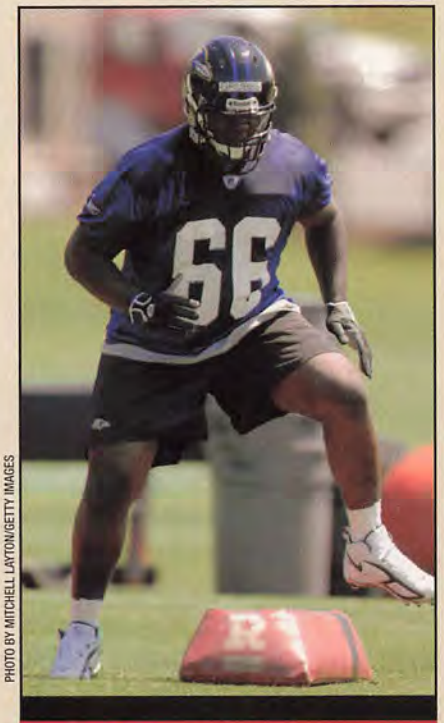


PHOTO BY MITCHELL LAYTON/GETTY IMAGES

BEN GRUBBS • BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE RAVENS

B

1 (29) Ben Grubbs, G, Auburn
Terrific movement and aggressiveness ... Like all Auburn linemen, he excels in running game; is a bit raw as pass blocker ... Needs to work on technique, but often overcomes that with his natural ability ... Can flatten a DT with his burst off the line ... Very steady.

3 (74) Yamon Figurs, WR/KR, Kansas State
Has a lot to learn about routes, concentration and getting free off the line ... If he gets open, he can really move ... One of the better cutters among the wideouts, has big-play potential ... Ravens should use him returning kicks right now.

3 (86) Marshall Yanda, T/G, Iowa
Former junior college player ... Versatile, might wind up at guard ... Struggles in the passing game, but can handle run blocking pretty well ... Not bad at pulling ... A bit raw, but there is a lot of talent here.

4 (134) Antwan Barnes, LB, Florida International
Has the athleticism to make the jump from lower level of Division I-A to NFL ... Very fast former end who might find a niche on special teams ... Can get to the quarterback ... Needs to upgrade technique and won't likely be a factor for Ravens right away.

4 (137) Le'Ron McClain, FB, Alabama
Thick body, weighs 260 pounds ... Likes to block; could also handle receiving, perhaps even at tight end ... Has some technique weaknesses that could be improved with coaching ... Should help on special teams and in short-yardage spots.

5 (174) Troy Smith, QB, Ohio State
The Heisman Trophy winner who was spectacular in most of Buckeyes' big games: until the NCAA championship match ... At 6-0, considered short to be NFL quarterback ... Great athlete with excellent instincts and leadership ... Takes on challenges and usually overcomes them ... Struggled early in his career at OSU, even was suspended for improper gifts

from boosters, then became top college player ... Struggled in Senior Bowl workouts, a bad sign.

6 (207) Prescott Burgess, LB, Michigan
Strictly a kick coverage and blocking guy for now ... Not big, but is instinctive ... Good motor ... Can be blocked by one player ... Has experience in big games.

Good Move: Grubbs and Yanda could help rebuild an aging offensive line.

Tell Me Why: The Ravens probably could have traded down on an active day and still gotten Grubbs.

Could Surprise: McClain could be a starter sooner rather than later.

BUFFALO BILLS

B-

1 (12) Marshawn Lynch, RB, California
Comes out after junior year ... Very dangerous once he breaks through the line ... Also will help Buffalo by catching the ball, especially on screens ... Might need to add some strength to his impressive moves, but not afraid to run inside ... Can take a hit and keep coming ... Played in pro-style offense at Cal ... Replaces Willis McGahee.

2 (34) Paul Posluszny, LB, Penn State
The best LB out of Linebacker U. in a while ... Has overcome injuries to be a star, but some pros worried whether he lost a step from knee woes ... Runs well, can cover tight ends and backs ... Smart, works hard ... No less an expert than Jack Ham says he is Nittany Lions' best linebacker ever.

3 (92) Trent Edwards, QB, Stanford
Fine athlete that was highly recruited out of high school and never really developed for the Cardinal ... Good size ... Has been nicked up consistently ... Tends to fumble, too ... His latent talent got him selected, but he is a project.

4 (111) Dwayne Wright, RB, Fresno State
Knee woes curtailed much of his college career, yet he left as a junior in part because he already is 23 years old ... Can play at 230 pounds or more, so might eventually fit as a fullback ... Will certainly be a power runner and blocker in the pros ... Might do well catching the ball.

6 (184) John Wendling, CB/S, Wyoming
Versatile; has the speed for cornerback and the size and aggressiveness for safety ... Will be a good nickel back for Bills, a value here ... Also can go up against tights ends and running backs on occasion ... Can't be left on an island because he can struggle against shifty wideouts.

7 (222) Derek Schouman, TE/FB, Boise State
At 6-2, 223, is more of a receiver than a blocker ... Very coachable ... Played in a productive system and should be able to make adjustment to NFL ... Aggressive and has a mean streak.

7 (239) C.J. Ah You, DE, Oklahoma
A leader with the Sooners ... Works hard, will impress in the weight room and in workouts ... Got to the QB in college, but needs to develop more moves ... Should make a mark on special teams.

Good Move: Trading up to get Posluszny after missing on Patrick Willis by one spot.

Tell Me Why: Why not trade up a couple of spots for Willis, the guy they really wanted?

Could Surprise: Wendling is versatile enough and rugged enough to make a contribution.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

B

1 (25) Jon Beason, LB, Miami
A bit short for the position, but very physical ... Might need to curb his aggressiveness a bit because he sometimes overruns plays ... Can play the run and the pass equally well ... Won't catch the ball, though ... Should fit in very nicely in Carolina.

2 (45) Dwayne Jarrett, WR, Southern Cal
The pros remember how Mike Williams has bombed and wonder about Jarrett ... At 6-4, 219 pounds, he has similar stature to Williams ... Jarrett dominated in college physically, is unlikely to do that in NFL ... Very good hands and looks the ball in efficiently ... Good route-runner, but not great ... Must get stronger, show he will work hard, and stay healthy ... Probably won't have big impact this year.

2 (59) Ryan Kalil, C, Southern Cal
Might need to bulk up from 291 pounds ... A smart player who gets off the ball quickly and powerfully ... Used solid technique and work ethic to dominate ... A leader whose father, Frank, played center in the pros ... Knows what it's like playing in big games.

3 (83) Charles Johnson, DE, Georgia
Not likely to make a big impact as a pass rusher, but will help shut down the run at Carolina ... His sacks last year, as a junior, came in part because he rarely saw two blockers ... A bit raw, with lots of room for growth ... Patience with him will be rewarded.

4 (118) Ryne Robinson, WR, Miami, Ohio
Small, but willing ... Can block ... Figures to contribute on special teams, particularly returning punts, which would relieve Steve Smith of that chore ... Must get better at escaping chucks at line of scrimmage.

5 (155) Dante Rosario, TE, Oregon
Could also wind up at fullback ... Panthers would prefer him at tight end, where they have a need, though ... A good blocker with nice instincts ... Technique is weak and can be overpowered, especially in pass blocking.

5 (164) Tim Shaw, LB, Penn State
Extremely versatile, could play inside or outside, has some experience at DE ... Also has been a running back ... Loves to be on the field, regardless of where ... Should have impact on special teams ... Fits nicely here, a true sleeper.

7 (226) C.J. Wilson, CB/S, Baylor
Probably needs to play safety or against slot receivers ... Not real strong and doesn't show the instincts needed in man coverage ... Works hard and is a leader ... Could boost kick teams.

Good Move: Kalil, Johnson and Shaw all were excellent values for where they went.

Tell Me Why: Carolina didn't address its safety situation until final round.

Could Surprise: Shaw is among the best fifth-round selections this year.

CHICAGO BEARS

B+

1 (31) Greg Olsen, TE, Miami
Unquestionably the best tight end in the draft ... A great combine helped his stock ... Can break tackles, but won't get deep much ... His 4.51 speed is enticing ... Hurricanes pedigree at the position (Bubba Franks, Jeremy Shockey, Kellen Winslow Jr.) made him work hard to be in that echelon ... Might need some push from the coaches because his attention can wander.

2 (62) Dan Bazuin, DE, Central Michigan
Highly regarded for a MAC defender ... Has had many off-field issues to deal with, including suicide attempt by his brother ... Non-stop go-getter who improved as season wore on ... Could play linebacker, but will need adjustment time ... More of a situational guy right now.

3 (93) Garrett Wolfe, RB, Northern Illinois
High achiever in college with good cutting skills and awareness ... A solid technician as a runner ... Small and not all that durable ... No one will outwork him, but he has to show a lot to make an impact ... Best chance is as third-down back.

3 (94) Michael Okwo, LB, Stanford
A hustler with intelligence, but not real athletic ... Will use what he has to maximum ... Unafraid to go up against bigger people and often wins ... Special teams will be his avenue until he learns to be better in coverage, which should happen.

4 (130) Josh Beekman, G, Boston College
A school that excels turning out offensive linemen has another ... A hard worker with a mean streak, Beekman won't back down from any veterans ... A better run-blocker than in pass protection, but strong on both ... A little stiff, but Bears can fix that with coaching.

5 (167) Kevin Payne, S, Louisiana-Monroe
Former running back with a lot to learn about defense ... Athletic, but not super quick ... Definitely should aid Bears on special teams ... Can even punt ... Trying to make a big leap in competition level.

5 (168) Corey Graham, CB, New Hampshire
Has a lot to learn, but is instinctive and made plays in Division I-AA ... Practiced against David Ball, who set college touchdown record for career ... Good size ... Not real fluid ... Should help on kick coverages.

7 (221) Trumaine McBride, CB, Mississippi
Small and not particularly quick ... Bears must see him on special teams, because coverage skills are minimal ... Surprising he was drafted at all, but he will work hard to make roster.

7 (241) Aaron Brant, T/G, Iowa State
Brant can play both sides and also play at guard ... Slow in his workouts, but he has length and strength ... Good motor ... Has to upgrade his technique in all phases ... Can be blitzed.

Good Move: Olsen could help the passing game immediately.

Tell Me Why: Wolfe is an overachiever, but probably not the guy to spell Cedric Benson.

Could Surprise: Beekman could be center of future, but might push for starting job sooner.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

B-

1 (18) Leon Hall, CB, Michigan
Was expected to go in top 10 ... Full-timer for three seasons who can play all kinds of coverage ... At 5-11, doesn't usually struggle with taller wideouts ... Biggest concern was he struggled in some big games, but so did the defense as a whole ... Can catch the ball, could help on kick teams, too.

2 (49) Kenny Irons, RB, Auburn
Very quick to the hole and in getting outside ... Plays hard, but not always wisely ... Did not have a big senior season ... Formerly went to South Carolina, but found a home at Auburn in the tough Southeastern Conference ... Has had some minor injury issues ... Is not a clone of Cadillac Williams or Ronnie Brown.

4 (114) Marvin White, S, Texas Christian
Excellent hitter who comes up on running plays and wipes out people ... Unfortunately, he isn't nearly so good in pass coverage ... Might do his best on kick coverage teams ... Won't play much defense as a rookie unless Bengals are hit by injuries.

5 (151) Jeff Rowe, QB, Nevada
Impressive off-season helped his stock ... Handled the short-passing offense well for Wolf Pack, but can he get the ball deep consistently? ... Throws well on the run, is mobile for a 6-5 QB ... A developmental type for Cincinnati, which can afford it.

6 (187) Matt Toeaina, DT, Oregon
Versatile player who teamed with last year's top pick by Ravens, Haloti Ngata, to form dynamic duo of Ducks ... Knows how to get to the quarterback, could fit in pass-rushing situations immediately for Bengals ... Not much in the run game, which will limit his snaps ... A value here.

2007 NFL DRAFT

7 (230) Dan Santucci, C/G, Notre Dame
Work, work, work is his motto ... Has some leadership skills ... Can play guard ... Limited as an athlete and has a lot to learn in pass protection ... Must anchor better on the line ... Not many Notre Dame blockers are standouts in today's NFL.

7 (253) Nedu Ndukwe, S, Notre Dame
Aggressive and rugged, but not fundamentally strong ... Can be blocked by one guy ... Might lack instincts, especially in pass coverage ... If he gets near the ball, can pick it off ... Looks like a special teams guy.

Good Move: Hall can help solve some of the defensive woes here.

Tell Me Why: The Bengals didn't deal effectively with other problems on defense.

Could Surprise: Toeaina has a good shot down the road and as a situational guy this year.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — A

1 (3) Joe Thomas, T, Wisconsin
At 6-6, 311, has the size to fit at left tackle, but he has so much more ... Moves well, is intelligent and loves to play ... Has played hurt, too, but had torn ACL as a junior ... Was the best blocker on a good offense and held his own; sometimes dominating top defenders ... Should be a starter from Day 1 for Cleveland, equally effective on runs and passes ... Is a small-town Midwesterner, new home shouldn't be uncomfortable.

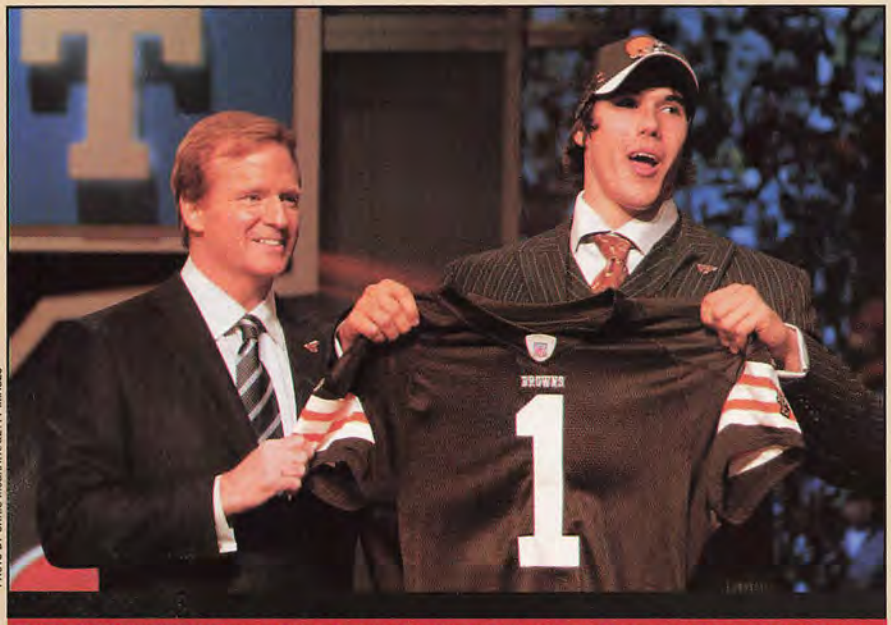


PHOTO BY CHRIS McGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

NFL COMMISSIONER ROGER GOODELL WITH BROWNS' DRAFT PICK BRADY QUINN

1 (22) Brady Quinn, QB, Notre Dame
Benefited greatly from coaching of Charlie Weis and pro-style offense at Notre Dame ... Confident, but was psyche damaged by slipping so far in draft? ... Can be forced into some bad throws; needs to improve decision making ... Lost most of the big games he played, but Irish also had pitiful defense ... Strong arm and he fits passes into tight spots ... Can panic at times when pressured, but also can make big plays ... Last star quarterback from Notre Dame was Joe Montana.

2 (53) Eric Wright, CB, Nevada-Las Vegas
Has had off-field issues ... Transferred from Southern Cal: if you can't play for Pete Carroll, you have problems ... Very fast, but not real durable ... Takes chances and can get burned ... A gamble by the Browns that he will show more heart and more brains.

5 (140) Brandon McDonald, S, Memphis
Former junior college player ... Played both cornerback and safety in school ... Showed he could play at top level in 2006 ... Showed a lot as a corner last year, but his future likely is at free safety ... Needs to get a bit stronger and has had some injury issues.

6 (200) Melila Purcell, DE, Hawaii
At 6-5, 266, was an end in college but not much against the pass ... Could be helpful against the run and even at inside linebacker on some formations ... Has a lot to learn, but a good motor and hunger.

7 (213) Chase Pittman, DE, Louisiana State
Non-stop motor, will go at it until the whistle on every play ... His enthusiasm rubbed off on many teammates at LSU ... Not much of a pass rusher because of lack of speed, but fights off blockers with his relentlessness ... Inconsistent, though, and can sometimes be handled by one guy ... Special teams await.

7 (234) Syndric Steptoe, WR, Arizona
Can return kicks, which is where he probably is headed ... Won't get deep as a receiver, though ... More of an outside guy on short passes ... How tough is he as a receiver? He's got what it takes for kick runbacks.

Good Move: All of the aggressiveness Phil Savage showed to upgrade the roster now.

Tell Me Why: Why were so many teams unwilling to trade with Browns to get Quinn until Cleveland found partner in Dallas?

Could Surprise: McDonald, if he stays healthy and isn't shuffled around.

DALLAS COWBOYS — B

1 (26) Anthony Spencer, DE/LB, Purdue
Might wind up at linebacker, but could be effective as an end ... Handles the run pretty well and will get pressure on the passer ... Performed at a high level all through senior season ... Needs to work in space, because he can be overpowered in tight spots.

3 (67) James Marten, T, Boston College
Tall and agile, well schooled in his assignments ... Might have problems with shorter DTs who bring power base ... Must remain exceptional using his hands to block, which has been a strength ... Did well in off-season to draw high ratings ... Could use his height (6-7) and wingspan to block kicks.

4 (103) Isaiah Stanback, QB, Washington
Injuries have been a problem ... Didn't stay on the field a lot for Washington and comes off the dreaded Lis Franc foot injury ... Creative and quick ... Improved as senior before getting hurt, but could wind up at different position.

4 (122) Doug Free, T, Northern Illinois
A durable guy who was not sidelined by his one college injury (foot stress fracture) ... Solid technically and maintains it until the whistle. But he isn't as powerful as he needs to be ... Might need to get stronger, particularly in run blocking ... Worth a look after helping RB Garrett Wolfe to big numbers.

6 (178) Nick Folk, PK, Arizona
Cowboys have not been satisfied with their kickers for years ... Folk has strong leg, can hit from distance, but is not particularly accurate ... Will be able to kick off ... A long shot to make team.

6 (195) Deon Anderson, FB, Connecticut
Has enough power and speed to help the Cowboys in backfield ... Also should do well as blocker on kick returns ... Can get into the end zone on short runs because his footwork is pretty good ... Fumbles ... Worth this pick.

7 (212) Courtney Brown, CB, Cal Poly
Raw, a project with size (6-1, 200) and tenacity ... Must learn a lot about the position, but can be tutored by Dallas veterans ... Might make impact on special teams, but also could wind up on practice squad.

7 (237) Alan Ball, CB, Illinois
Nice size at 6-1, 182 ... Plays hurt ... Can move fluidly, but has a lot to learn about the position ... Will get involved against the run ... Questionable hands.

Good Move: Getting Cleveland's No. 1 spot next year, then getting back into first round for Spencer.

Tell Me Why: Cowboys didn't get any impact help for secondary or wideout.

Could Surprise: Anderson has a lot of upside at a position of need.

DENVER BRONCOS — B-

1 (17) Jarvis Moss, DE, Florida
Big-play specialist with excellent edge rush and height to disrupt passing game ... Very athletic, could also play linebacker ... Has had injury problems and was not as good as advertised for much of career ... A leader in the NCAA title game, though, and Ohio State couldn't block Moss, who left Gators after junior season ... Had marijuana issue at Florida.

2 (56) Tim Crowder, DE, Texas
Good speed and experience ... A leader on a high-achieving team ... Inconsistent, especially as a pass rusher ... Will be a situational guy until he gains more versatility and consistency.

3 (70) Ryan Harris, T, Notre Dame
An underachiever, not one of the cogs in Notre Dame's strong offense, but looked good in workouts ... Moves very well, but he doesn't always work hard, which negates his athleticism ... Has had some back woes ... Smart enough to improve, but will he try enough?

4 (121) Marcus Thomas, DT, Florida
Bad-boy rep for Gators, he missed out helping them win a national title when he was kicked off the team as senior ... Big, strong and quick ... Did very little in off-season to help his stock, in part due to some injuries ... The talent is there, but in the current environment, many teams saw him as a risk. Not the Broncos.

Good Move: Taking Thomas, a first-round talent, in the fourth round. But the downside is tremendous, too.

Tell Me Why: How come the Broncos were willing to so ignore character issues with the two Gators?

Could Surprise: Moss and Thomas, if they are good citizens, can be outstanding players.

DETROIT LIONS

A

1 (2) Calvin Johnson, WR, Georgia Tech
The best athlete in the draft ... Should be a game-breaker for Lions, but we also heard that about Charles Rogers and Mike Williams ... Has great size (6-5, 239), speed (4.35), hands and runs solid routes ... Consistently beat double teams in college ... A character guy, which has become very important to most NFL teams ... Left after junior season ... By far the No. 1 wide-out in a class that is deep and skilled.

2 (43) Drew Stanton, QB, Michigan State
Should have done much more than he managed for Spartans, but also had some weak coaching ... Has all the measurables ... Injury-prone, including major knee problem in '03 ... A risk for the Lions, who will need to extract all that talent and get him to improve his decision making. But Mike Martz could do it.

2 (58) Ikaika Alama-Francis, DE, Hawaii
Quickness, perhaps stemming from being basketball and volleyball player, is remarkable for someone his size (6-5, 280) ... Also is strong ... Needs to refine all of his moves, though ... A workaholic ... Won't do a lot this year or maybe even next, but should become a good player.

2 (61) Gerald Alexander, S, Boise State
Not much is said about the Broncos' defense, but Alexander is a good player ... Strong and will find the ball and leave his mark ... Has a lot to learn, though, and his technique is so-so ...Coverage must be upgraded.

4 (105) A.J. Davis, CB, North Carolina State
Will be more comfortable playing zone until he gets more aggressive ... Has good footwork and moves like a receiver ... Decent size ... Pretty experienced, but on a bad team.

4 (117) Manuel Ramirez, G, Texas Tech
Extremely physical and aggressive ... Comes from a pass-happy offense, but has the tools to be effective in running game ... Can pancake defenders ... Probably fits best at right guard, where his lack of athleticism won't hurt Lions.

5 (158) Johnny Baldwin, LB, Alabama A&M
Nice fit for special teams right off the bat ... Making a big leap from college level, but makes plays ... more instinctive than fast ... Needs more experience in pass defense.

7 (255) Ramzee Robinson, CB, Alabama
Mr. Irrelevant, the last player chosen ... Short and not particularly fast ... Can handle zone coverage, but a stretch to ask him to try man ... Might help on special teams.

Good Move: Matt Millen didn't shy away from Johnson despite striking out on Charles Rogers and Mike Williams.

Tell Me Why: Stanton was a reach at 43 overall because of bad decision-making.

Could Surprise: The Lions, who might win, oh, five games.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

C

1 (16) Justin Harrell, DT, Tennessee
Inconsistent player with lots of upside ... Needs to be quicker, but is very strong ... Has had some injuries, but is willing to play hurt ... Somewhat one-dimensional, but with better coaching in Green Bay, he should become more of a force vs. the pass.

2 (63) Brandon Jackson, RB, Nebraska
Not real productive for Cornhuskers, then left school after junior year ... Looked terrific in workouts, showing agility and strength at 212 pounds ... Might help Pack as third-down back ... Has had some fumble and injury problems ... Needs to improve running technique.

3 (78) James Jones, WR, San Jose State
Comes off a fine senior season, has experience and good fundamentals ... Is not real fast, but can break open shorter passes ... Has some nice moves ... Pretty good around the end zone ... Did well in workouts, helping his stock.

3 (89) Aaron Rouse, S, Virginia Tech
Big and moves well ... Tall, can handle tight ends and bigger receivers over the middle ... A bit raw ... Had a weak 40 at the NFL combine, but usually plays faster than he times ... Some teams saw him converting to linebacker, but Green Bay says he's a safety.

4 (119) Allen Barbre, T, Missouri Southern
A prospect and a project ... Flashed dominant skills at small-college level, especially with his movement and his mean streak ... Pretty strong, too ... Must work on his push and some fundamentals ... Probably could play either side down the line.

5 (157) David Clowney, WR, Virginia Tech
Good prospect from a bad passing team ... Made his stock soar in off-season, especially at Senior Bowl ... Good size, not particularly strong ... Does his best work after the catch and is dangerous in the open field ... Will play hurt, but has had some injuries ... Opponents will try to bully him ... Not afraid to block.

6 (191) Korey Hall, FB, Boise State
Future might be on special teams ... Played fullback and linebacker for Broncos ... Projects better on offense for Pack ...Shows lots of aggressiveness wherever he plays.

6 (192) Desmond Bishop, LB, California
A leader who understands everyone's job on a defense ... Knows where to be, but not always athletic enough to get there ... Can catch the ball and will frustrate some running backs in pass coverage ... Should handle special teams well.

6 (193) Mason Crosby, PK, Colorado
Made 19 of his 27 field-goal tries and had 27 kickoffs not returned ... How much did the altitude help some of those kicks? ... Consistency will be a key for him ... Packers usually find solid kickers.

7 (228) DeShawn Wynn, RB, Florida
Needs to get more aggressive ... Cuts well and is elusive enough ... Comes from a winning program where he was a significant contributor ... Not particularly fast, won't turn the corner too often ... Could find a role on kick coverages.

7 (243) Clark Harris, TE, Rutgers
A pretty good school for tight ends ... Tall and a nice target on short passes ... Won't get deep ... Doesn't have strong instincts as a receiver ... More of a practice-squad type for now despite his production in college.

Good Move: Packers made some deals to get extra picks in a deep draft.

Tell Me Why: The Packers didn't do more with all those picks.

Could Surprise: If Brett Favre takes a liking to him, Clowney could have a role right away.

HOUSTON TEXANS

B

1 (10) Amobi Okoye, DT, Louisville
The second-youngest player drafted since merger, at 19 ... He's very mature and a rare physical specimen ... Just think, he could be a free agent in NFL at age many guys are rookies ... Very intelligent player with strong grasp of his position and football fundamentals ... Born in Nigeria ... How will such a young player fit in a pro locker room?

3 (73) Jacoby Jones, WR, Lane
Could be a diamond in the rough; he was a standout at East-West game ... Good size and movement, needs to bulk up a bit without losing speed ... Has to upgrade his routes ... Tough to catch in the open field ... If Texans are patient with this small-college wideout, things could work out for Jones and them.

4 (123) Fred Bennett, CB, South Carolina
Very quick and sometimes needs the speed to make up for being fooled ... Tall and skilled but might be a bit lazy ... Did not excel last season ... Misses too many tackles; won't help much against the run.

5 (144) Brandon Harrison, S, Stanford
Intelligent player with nice size and hitting ability ... Played strong safety in college, projects as a free safety ... Might get some work on kick teams, too ... A developmental player with upside.

5 (163) Brandon Frye, G/T, Virginia Tech
An underachiever who has the size and movement to be more productive ... Somewhat raw, is more of a project for now, but with upside ... More of a guard prospect than a tackle ... Some teams passed on him because he lacks instincts for the job.

6 (183) Kasey Studdard, G, Texas
Hard worker with some strength and fundamentals ... Not real versatile, though ... At best, he looks like a backup to some mediocre players ... Played well in some big games for Longhorns.

7 (218) Zach Diles, LB, Kansas State
Short, but solid ... Not likely to get much time on field; looks like a backup at best ... Could learn from DeMeco Ryans, last year's top rookie ... Special teams will be his specialty.

Good Move: Okoye might anchor the defensive line for a decade, but they can't rush him.

Tell Me Why: Again, not enough help for the offensive line.

Could Surprise: Jones has tremendous raw skills and a lot to learn.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

A

1 (32) Anthony Gonzalez, WR, Ohio State
Big-time playmaker for the Buckeyes who also benefited from Ted Ginn Jr.'s speed on the other side ... He also is fast (4.44), but spent much of his time as a shorter option at OSU ... Didn't have a great combine, but this guy gets first downs and touchdowns ... Will make some spectacular plays, too ... A bigger Wayne Chrebet or similar to Brandon Stokley, so he fits perfectly in Indianapolis.

2 (42) Tony Ugoh, T/G, Arkansas
A track guy (discus and shot put) who has much to learn about football ... Tall, strong and pretty athletic ... Soared up in the rankings since end of season, even though he struggled somewhat at the Senior Bowl ... Probably a better right tackle prospect for now.

3 (95) Daymeion Hughes, CB, California
Has excellent coverage instincts ... Not fast and shouldn't be left on an island ... Although he continued to make big plays, followed a strong junior season with a so-so senior year ... A feast or famine kind of player ... Colts shouldn't rush him.

3 (98) Quinn Pitcock, DT, Ohio State
Very functional player for Buckeyes, but not a strong NFL prospect ... Has leadership qualities and works hard, but is limited athletically ... Does his best work against the run; has a lot to learn as a pass rusher.

4 (131) Brannon Condren, S, Troy
Made plays all over the field for Troy ... Fluid and fast, gets to top speed as quickly as most wideouts ... Not a great fundamental tackler ... Has been up and down in college and might need a full season to learn Colts' defense.

4 (136) Clint Session, LB, Pittsburgh
One of the faster linebackers in the draft ... Not powerful or

big, which can make him a non-factor against the run ... Can blitz, though ... Fundamentals could use some work ... Could be a special teams dynamo.

5 (169) Roy Hall, WR, Ohio State
Played behind some excellent wideouts in Columbus and should be prepared when he gets to camp ... Good size ... Had some strong workouts, which probably got him drafted ... Won't have the impact of Gonzalez here, but might find a role.

5 (173) Michael Coe, CB, Alabama State
One-dimensional pass defender who must upgrade against the run ... Transfer from Arkansas, played very well in I-AA ... Former wideout who can return kicks ... Has the look of a nickel back for Colts.

7 (242) Keyunta Dawson, DE, Texas Tech
Started past two seasons and performed well on a so-so defense ... Active, can get to the quarterback ... Lacks size, but has some burst ... Fits nicely in what Tony Dungy likes his defense to do.

Good Move: Gonzalez was the best prospect in the draft for a slot receiver, and this is perfect spot for him.

Tell Me Why: Colts didn't do much to help linebacking corps.

Could Surprise: Not this year, but down the road Condren could become a starter.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS
B

1 (21) Reggie Nelson, S, Florida
The anchor of the national champions' secondary, Nelson finds the ball and makes plays ... Strictly a free safety, although he could see some nickel cornerback duty ... Aggressive, strong, and knows how to use his tools ... Is not as instinctive against the pass as he is vs. the run ... Could start this year for Jags.

2 (48) Justin Durant, LB, Hampton
Yep, another top prospect from Hampton ... A go-getter with power who runs through ball carriers ... Gets too aggressive and needs to tone it down at times ... Could wind up as a safety, but warrants an opportunity at linebacker.

3 (79) Mike Walker, WR, Central Florida
Scouts worried he would not recover sufficiently from torn ACL of 2005, but had a real nice season as a senior ... Good size and very good speed, even after the knee surgery ... Might need to bulk up a bit ... His work ethic alone made him worth this choice and he could help Jaguars on special teams.

4 (101) Adam Podlesh, P, Maryland
Is particularly good getting distance on kicks from deep in his territory ... Also is tough to block his punts because he gets them off quickly ... Still, 101 overall for a punter with the holes Jags have.

4 (113) Brian Smith, DE, Missouri
Missed half of last season with a broken hip ... Had he stayed healthy, Smith might have been a first-day selection ... Can get to the quarterback — witness his 31.5 sacks for the Tigers ... A bit one-dimensional, could wind up as linebacker ... Played at 230, needs to add perhaps 20 pounds.

5 (149) Uche Nwaneri, G, Purdue
After being benched in 2005, came on to recapture starting spot for Boilermakers ... Strong player on a decent line ... Will get outside in running game, and can get into linebackers if needed ... Gets beaten by quicker rushers up the middle.

5 (150) Josh Gattis, S, Wake Forest
A track man who turned himself into a football player ... Has some problems with early contact and pass interference calls, which he must be coached out of doing ... Finds the ball and hits a ton, but must work on his tackling technique ... Was a leader on overachieving team.

5 (166) Derek Landri, DT, Notre Dame
Needs more weight than his 282 in college (he's now 288) and also more strength ... Had good senior season, which moved him into consideration to be drafted ... Intelligent player with non-stop motor ... Overcame injuries throughout career.

7 (229) John Broussard, WR, San Jose State
Can go long and runs some nice routes ... Not real strong; must add some strength to get away from jams ... Will drop some passes ... Not afraid to get hit over the middle.

7 (251) Chad Nkang, LB, Elon
Might need to go at safety unless he adds some pounds ... Not an elite player on lower level, which does not bode well for jump to NFL ... Fast and flows to the ball ... Understands pass coverage, but can be fooled by opponents.

7 (252) Andrew Carnahan, T, Arizona State
Missed much of last season with knee injury ... Wasn't real mobile or strong before that ... Intelligent player, but very limited in what he can do athletically ... A real project.

Good Move: Jags filled a hole with selection of Nelson, and Gattis could be a factor in secondary down the line.

Tell Me Why: Not much help here for a declining offensive line.

Could Surprise: Gattis has the leadership and the want-to for a leap to a contributing role.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
B-

1 (23) Dwayne Bowe, WR, Louisiana State
Good size and a willingness to use it ... The most powerful receiver in this year's class ... Will do his best work over the middle, but runs good enough patterns to be effective anywhere ... Won't be a deep threat, but can be more like a Keyshawn Johnson or Drew Bennett ... Has some injuries in his past, which could be problematic ... Stock rose throughout off-season.

2 (54) Turk McBride, DT, Tennessee
Raw player with lots of upside ... Only a starter for one season with Vols ... Versatile, could play some end in the right situations ... Works hard and should be a worthwhile project for Chiefs.

3 (82) DeMarcus Tyler, DT, North Carolina State
Nicknamed "Tank," hopefully he doesn't have off-field issues like Chicago's Tank Johnson. But he has had some incidents ... A bit raw, but can make plays inside and outside ... Good pursuit for a 306-pounder ... Very strong ... Has some pedigree, considering three of his teammates in '05 went in first round last year, including Mario Williams at the top.

5 (148) Kolby Smith, RB, Louisville
Stepped in when Michael Bush went down and performed nicely ... More of a situational player than a full-blown starter ... Could have a role on special teams for Chiefs ... College backups rarely prosper as pro running backs.

5 (160) Justin Medlock, PK, UCLA
Lawrence Tynes era might be over for Chiefs ... Medlock needs to be more consistent ... Should get kickoffs deep, though ... Had a DUI during his career.

6 (196) Herbert Taylor, G/T, Texas Christian
A bit awkward at times and not real aggressive ... Has to bulk up, too ... When he is balanced, he can make some good blocks ... Experienced ... A stretch to think he'll contribute this year.

7 (231) Michael Allan, TE, Whitworth
Tall and bulky, but moves well ... Coming from small school, has a huge jump to make ... He was only Division III player invited to the combine.

Good Move: Chiefs stayed put with a lot of wild stuff going on in first round and landed solid player.

Tell Me Why: The offensive line needs a lot more help than it got here.

Could Surprise: Considering the last three players were reaches, perhaps Smith will develop.

MIAMI DOLPHINS
C

1 (9) Ted Ginn Jr., WR, Ohio State
Might make more impact returning kicks for Miami, which is fine ... Left OSU after junior season and foot injury in NCAA title game; taking him ninth overall was a surprise ... Very fast, must improve his route-running ... Needs to get stronger, too, or physical DBs will manhandle him at the line ... If he gets in full gear, will make long gainers look routine ... Needs to learn to handle routes over the middle better.

2 (40) John Beck, QB, Brigham Young
Experienced starter at BYU who doesn't have a great arm ... Not real athletic, either, but smart and a leader ... Will be 26 before season begins ... Needs to improve his escapability ... It's been a while since this school produced a top pro quarterback.

2 (60) Samson Satele, G/C, Hawaii
One of the strongest centers in the draft ... Very aggressive, explodes off the line at times like a shark after prey ... Very experienced in pass protection; Hawaii rarely ran the ball ... Gets excited at times, which makes him lose technique.

3 (71) Lorenzo Booker, RB, Florida State
Mixed opinions on Booker, who never reached the stardom expected by Seminoles ... Might be more of a situational player for Dolphins, prospering as third-down back and receiver out of backfield ... Has the speed to get outside and owns some nice moves ... Reminds some of his former FSU teammate Leon Washington, who did well for Jets in '06.

4 (108) Paul Soliai, NT, Utah
Huge, and carries his 344 or so pounds pretty well ... More of a run-stuffer than anything, might not play much on passing downs ... Former offensive tackle who understands blocking schemes ... Has had some off-field issues and a team suspension.

6 (181) Reagan Mauia, FB, Hawaii
At 6-0 and 270 pounds, has played defensive tackle ... Strictly would be a blocker if he winds up at fullback ... Dolphins might think about making him an offensive lineman, too.

6 (199) Drew Mormino, C/G, Central Michigan
Played on same line with first-rounder Joe Staley at tackle, which might have made him look better ... Can play guard or center, but projects better as a center ... Has to get a little tougher, but has the work ethic to do so.

7 (219) Kelvin Smith, LB, Syracuse
Plays hard and tough ... Intelligent and a leader ... Not a great athlete; does much better against the run ... Won't do much on outside plays, but can handle stuff up the middle ... Nephew of Titans star LB Keith Bulluck.

7 (225) Brandon Fields, P, Michigan State
Tall, strong and athletic kicker ... Looks like an athlete ... Knows how to kick in bad weather ... Not a bad choice if you're going to draft a punter.

7 (238) Abraham Wright, DE, Colorado
Needs to add weight and strength to survive at end ... Could become an outside linebacker, but does he have the speed? ... Somewhat of a one-dimensional pass rusher, who must upgrade in several areas.

Good Move: Keeping a heavy load of picks to fill a group of holes.

Tell Me Why: Ginn Jr. can be dynamic, but the ninth pick overall? Miami could have moved down.

Could Surprise: Smith has the genes, the intelligence and the hunger to make it.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS
B-

1 (7) Adrian Peterson, RB, Oklahoma
The only real worry with him has been a history of injuries (ankle, shoulder, collarbone) ... Otherwise, he's an all-world

talent who will get tough yards and also break big runs ... Runs a bit upright, but so did Eddie George and he was pretty good ... Must show he can handle receiving chores, but has soft hands ... Won't be asked to block much by Vikings, and never has done it ... His 6-1, 217-pound frame and speed make him a potential All-Pro ... Came out as a junior.

2 (44) Sidney Rice, WR, South Carolina
Tall (6-4) and talented and he knows how to get open all over the field ... Didn't get a lot of help from teammates on offense ... Changes direction very well ... Good leaper, too ... Probably would have prospered by staying in school and getting another year under Steve Spurrier ... Could help on third downs.

3 (72) Marcus McCauley, CB, Fresno State
Has nice combo of size and quickness ... Has good timing, too ... Hits pretty well, but can get sloppy ... Did not have a good senior year, but then did well in off-season after a rough Senior Bowl ... Might need some adjustment time, but has lots of potential.

4 (102) Brian Robison, DE, Texas
Probably fits best at outside linebacker, but it will take some time for him to adjust to the position ... In certain situations, will bring it as a pass rusher for Vikes ... Finds the ball and makes plays ... Should help on kick teams.

5 (146) Aundrae Allison, WR, East Carolina
Solid route-runner with excellent quickness ... Will get deep and catch the ball, although his technique is mediocre ... Has a lot to learn in getting off the line ... Not the hardest worker, but he's coachable ... Could help on kick returns and has the versatility to run reverses.

6 (176) Rufus Alexander, LB, Oklahoma
An instinctive player who must improve nearly all his techniques ... Can cover ... Intelligent, will learn to overcome his weaknesses ... Had several off-field issues, including arrest last October for disturbing the peace.

7 (217) Tyler Thigpen, QB, Coastal Carolina
Very raw for the pros, and not particularly big ... Has the arm, has the hunger ... Knows how to move away from pressure, but makes too many low throws ... A project who might benefit from time in NFL Europa.

7 (233) Chandler Williams, WR, Florida Intl.
Fast, but raw ... Gets open, but will he make the catches on this level? ... Can return kicks and help on coverages ... Needs plenty of seasoning ... Was suspended for role in brawl with Miami.

Good Move: If Peterson can stay healthy, he's a game-breaking back this team desperately needs.

Tell Me Why: Another South Carolina wideout after the flop with Troy Williamson?

Could Surprise: Robison won't be a star, but can be effective.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — B

1 (24) Brandon Meriweather, S, Miami
Great talent who might have spoiled his stock with on- and off-field woes ... This is worst time to have any sort of character issues in NFL, but Patriots are gambling Meriweather has learned from his mistakes, including his role in brawl ... Instinctive player who can handle all sorts of coverage responsibilities and can blow up running plays ... Plenty fast enough for the pros.

4 (127) Kareem Brown, DT, Miami
A poor Senior Bowl made his stock plummet after a decent season ... Can rush the passer and will finish off QBs if he gets there ... Not real experienced, only started as a senior ... A developmental guy.

5 (171) Clint Oldenburg, T, Colorado State
A former tight end with some athleticism and intelligence ... Not a bad run blocker; struggles in passing game ... Not likely to play the left side, although Patriots somehow make these guys successful anywhere ... Oldenburg is similar to other obscure blockers who became starters here.

6 (180) Justin Rogers, LB, Southern Methodist
An end in college who will have to switch to outside linebacker in pros ... Can be used in pass-rushing situations ... At 6-4, 250 has nice size if he can move well enough at linebacker.

6 (202) Mike Richardson, CB, Notre Dame
A go-getter, but not much in man coverage ... Won't handle the faster wideouts ... Good body and can hit well ... Tough to figure out Notre Dame defenders, especially in recent years when team couldn't stop good offenses.

6 (208) Justise Hairston, RB, Central Connecticut
Formerly was at Rutgers, left just when Scarlet Knights were getting good ... Not very fast, but has strong lower body and aggressive nature ... Not much on cuts, but keeps going when he hits a hole.

6 (209) Corey Hilliard, T/G, Oklahoma State
More likely a right tackle, although he played both sides in college ... Didn't produce to his level of talent with consistency ... Comes at you most plays, but not all of them ... Has a lot to learn about the position.

7 (211) Oscar Lua, LB, Southern California
Lost his starting job as a senior, a bad sign, but he never gave up ... Smart player who is quite good in pass coverage ... Won't make a lot of plays on the outside ... Should help Pats on special teams.

7 (247) Mike Elgin, G/C, Iowa
Goes 6-4, 277, which makes him light for a guard ... Also can play center, and might be able to long snap in NFL ... A hard worker with some upside.

Good Move: If Meriweather behaves (a big IF), he's certainly worth the 24th pick.

Tell Me Why: So many of these guys are marginal prospects or underachievers.

Could Surprise: Oldenburg could be the next barely-heard-of lineman to make it in New England.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — C+

1 (27) Robert Meachem, WR, Tennessee
With better QB play, he would have been a slam-dunk star for Vols ... Good size, great speed, came out after junior year with his stock as high as it will get ... Pros love the way he combines powerful running style with speed ... Good hands and concentration ... Not an outstanding route-runner, but not bad ... Had some knee problems very early in college career, but doesn't seem a concern.

3 (66) Usama Young, CB, Kent State
After being spurned by combine, he showed he should have been invited with super workouts for pros ... Hits hard and uses his bulk to deliver a blow ... Raw, especially retreating ... Must read plays better ... A reach this high, but the talent is there.

3 (88) Andy Alleman, G, Akron
Intelligent and aggressive, but has a lot to learn about the game ... Transferred from Pitt and was sometimes dominant in MAC games ... A little undisciplined, but is coachable ... Some scouts are concerned that his strength doesn't translate to the field.

4 (107) Antonio Pittman, RB, Ohio State
Not real big, so might not be a workhorse in pros ... Can get to the outside, but does his best work with power ... Understands his job and how to follow blocks ... Not much of a blocker ... Should do well in passing game if he upgrades routes ... Won't back down.

4 (125) Jermon Bushrod, T/G, Towson
At 6-5, 315 has experience and movement ... A starter for nearly all his college career, but in Division I-AA ... More likely to play guard for Saints ... New Orleans had good luck last year with Jahri Evans, another small-college blocker.

5 (145) David Jones, CB, Wingate
About 6-0, with decent size to go with it ... Made a lot of plays on a lower level; needs time to develop here ... Showed enough speed and agility in games and workouts to draw interest this high.

7 (220) Marvin Mitchell, LB, Tennessee
Some off-field issues, but didn't allow them to prevent him from having good season ... Experienced ... Will try special teams to make an impact.

Good Move: Meachem fits the bill as a deep threat the Saints need to complement other young receivers.

Tell Me Why: No real help at linebacker?

Could Surprise: Pittman won't be under pressure as backup to Deuce and Reggie.

NEW YORK GIANTS — B

1 (20) Aaron Ross, CB, Texas
Fast and aggressive ... Can be fooled in coverage, but also has the speed to make up for it ... Only a one-year starter, so he might need time for the big transition ... Excellent kick returner, where he can help the Giants right away ... Has some tackling issues.

2 (51) Steve Smith, WR, Southern Cal
If he turns out like Carolina's Steve Smith, the Giants are in luck ... Bigger than the Panthers' star, this Smith is faster than he played in college ... Comes off terrific workouts as he moved way up in the rankings ... Intelligent receiver who has had to battle leg injuries, which could worry some coaches ... Has a toughness streak.

3 (81) Jay Alford, DT, Penn State
Must get bigger and stronger to play DT in the league ... Will work hard to improve and is intelligent ... Has some good moves ... Good tackler ... Has to refine his technique, especially on running plays.

4 (116) Zak DeOssie, LB, Brown
Father was linebacker and special teamer in NFL ... Intelligent and quick, understands what offenses are attempting ... Needs to upgrade his tackling technique ... Also was a ball boy for Patriots, but will be a lot bigger contributor for Giants, with whom his father played.

5 (153) Kevin Boss, TE, Western Oregon
Goes 6-6, 253, but can really move for that size ... Ran a 4.7 in the 40 ... Trying to make a big jump from Division II, but fared well at combine and in workouts ... Won't push Jeremy Shockey for starting slot.

6 (189) Adam Koets, T, Oregon State
Must bulk up ... Non-stop motor and understands the position ... Has some leadership skills, too ... Can get to the second level, although he doesn't move all that well with consistency ... Has some technique issues.

7 (224) Michael Johnson, S, Arizona
Tall and rangy, but not fast ... Needs to upgrade fundamentals ... Has had some injury problems, which didn't help his stock ... Can be fooled ... Could help on special teams right off with Giants.

7 (250) Ahmad Bradshaw, RB, Marshall
Left after junior year; might have needed to stay and show more to the pros ... Doesn't get outside all that well, but can break runs with cutting ability ... Catches the ball; might fit for Giants on third downs ... A bit lackadaisical, needs to use his strength more.

Good Move: Smith could be better than last year's No. 2 wideout, Sinorice Moss.

Tell Me Why: Little help for weak linebacking corps; DeOssie more a special teamer.

Could Surprise: Koets works hard and there is opportunity on this line.

2007 NFL DRAFT

NEW YORK JETS

B+

1 (14) Darrelle Revis, CB, Pittsburgh
Came out after junior year because he was ready ... Hits hard, knocks the ball loose ... Nice size ... Not the quickest DB, but plays a smart game ... Should be a threat as a punt returner for Jets and certainly figures to start.

2 (47) David Harris, LB, Michigan
A playmaker who would have been a slam-dunk first-rounder if he was a bit faster and better in pass coverage ... Has leadership skills ... Much more effective inside ... Has a history of knee injuries, but they didn't bother him in big 2006 ... Should fit New York's 3-4 nicely.

6 (177) Jacob Bender, T, Nicholls State
Never stops coming ... Athletic ... Very raw on fundamentals, though, and won't be ready to play much this year ... Pretty strong and can add to it ... Footwork is a minus ... Comes from small college.

7 (235) Chansi Stuckey, WR, Clemson
Dangerous in the open field, Stuckey has good speed and can get deep ... A bit small and definitely not real physical ... Senior season was damaged by broken foot ... Might make his biggest contributions as a kick returner for Jets this year.

Good Move: Jets were aggressive for second straight year and got two guys they targeted in first two rounds.

Tell Me Why: Why can't the Jets push the Patriots again in the AFC East?

Could Surprise: The kick return teams with holdover Justin Miller, Revis and Stuckey.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

B

1 (1) JaMarcus Russell, QB, Louisiana State
Left school after big junior season and superb Sugar Bowl ... Huge at 6-6, 255 pounds, with howitzer arm ... Can throw all the long balls, but needs to be less aggressive on some throws ... Will need work on fundamentals ... Has ballooned at times in off-seasons, but got his weight down for workout days ... Went 25-4 as a starter ... Tough to sack.

2 (38) Zach Miller, TE, Arizona State
A strong post-season rocketed him toward the top of the position rankings ... Has size and smarts, but not much speed ... Blocks well and has no fear of facing bigger defenders ... Will be purely a possession receiver ... Not to be compared with former Sun Devils TE Todd Heap.

3 (65) Quentin Moses, DE, Georgia
A preseason All-American who didn't exactly fizzle out, but certainly dropped in esteem ... Comes off mediocre senior season as opponents paid lots of attention to him and he couldn't deal with some of it ... Might be better fit as a linebacker in Oakland ... Showed little hunger last season.

3 (91) Mario Henderson, T, Florida State
One of only three seniors who started on FSU's offense ... Has some leadership skills ... Not real mobile and needs to get stronger ... Good attitude guy, but this was high to take him.

3 (99) Johnnie Lee Higgins, WR, Texas-El Paso
Needs to show he can do more than just burn down the field ... Can run in the low 4.4s, but can he do it against tougher coverage? ... Must get stronger; can be sidetracked at the line by physical CBs ... Former trackman who has mastered the art of receiving pretty well ... Can go up and get most throws.

4 (100) Michael Bush, RB, Louisville
A dynamic athlete who has had bad luck with injuries ... Was a star quarterback in high school who showed unselfishness by switching to running back for Louisville ... Huge (6-1, 245) and smart, but might have benefited from another season in college after missing all but one game in 2006 with broken leg ... Recent surgery added another big question mark ... Very coachable.

4 (110) John Bowie, CB, Cincinnati
A Big East track star who won the conference 100-meter dash ... Has a lot to learn about technique and defensive schemes, but the talent is there ... Can catch the ball ... Not afraid to challenge on running plays ... This was pick obtained in Randy Moss deal with Patriots.

5 (138) Jay Richardson, DE, Ohio State
Did not have a lot of impact for Buckeyes last year ... A situational player at best who has good size (6-6, 280) and can get after quarterback ... This might have been too high to take him.

5 (165) Eric Frampton, S, Washington State
Led Cougars in tackles and had four interceptions last season ... Very active, finds the ball ... A willing hitter ... Will be especially helpful on kick teams.

6 (175) Oren O'Neal, FB, Arkansas State
Powerful blocker who can pick up blitzers and take on bigger rushers ... A good runner straight ahead, won't do much else with the ball ... Must show he can be a factor near the goal line ... Played on lowest Division I-A level, so has a lot to prove.

7 (254) Jonathan Holland, WR, Louisiana Tech
Holland caught 33 passes for 503 yards and three touchdowns last season at Tech and also made 11 tackles on punt coverage and periodically returned kicks.

Good Move: If they are willing to wait for Bush to be 100 percent, he was worth first spot on second day.

Tell Me Why: Moses and Henderson were reaches in the third round, but Higgins wasn't.

Could Surprise: Frampton has spirit, smarts and will get a chance to play.

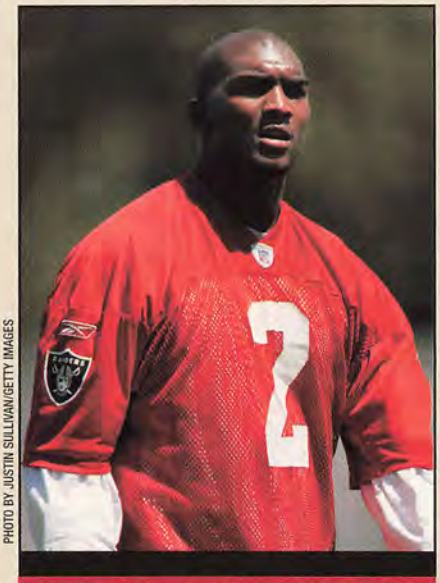


PHOTO BY JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

JaMARCUS RUSSELL • OAKLAND

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

C

2 (36) Kevin Kolb, QB, Houston
Good athlete with size and moves well ... Experienced starter, but did not win a lot for Cougars ... Inconsistent, but when he is on, he is very good ... Received good grades from scouts in workouts ... Dangerous throwing deep ... Good leadership skills.

2 (57) Victor Abiamiri, DE, Notre Dame
Irish defense wasn't much, and Abiamiri never reached his potential ... Has the size and speed to be a factor on the outside, maybe he'll flourish in Philly ... Can play the run with impressive strength ... Not real versatile ... A need to be patient with him.

3 (87) Stewart Bradley, LB, Nebraska
Reliable, productive, but not a game-breaker ... Intelligent player who understands defensive schemes and what offense is trying to do ... Had knee injury as junior, but came back strong from it ... Can handle tight ends.

3 (90) Tony Hunt, RB, Penn State
Some scouts rated him very highly; others saw him as second-day prospect ... Works hard and comes through in tough situations, and has versatility ... Won't break long plays, but is reliable for short yardage ... Doesn't mind blocking and has enough bulk ... Could wind up as a fullback or an H-back.

5 (159) C.J. Gaddis, CB, Clemson
Plays hard and wants it ... Nice size and will grab the ball ... Not real instinctive on the corner and his fundamentals are lacking ... Not particularly fast, either ... Should have stayed in school another season.

5 (162) Brent Celek, TE, Cincinnati
Capable of making big plays ... Had 83-yard touchdown to clinch upset of Rutgers ... Great size (6-4, 255) and can move ... Could help in red zone ... Eagles might lose L.J. Smith as free agent next year.

6 (201) Rashad Barksdale, CB, Albany, N.Y.
Didn't expect to be selected, despite running a 4.38 in the 40 ... Athletic, but raw, and has a big jump to make ... Might help on special teams while he learns the game.

7 (236) Nate Ilaoa, FB, Hawaii
Not a bad runner for someone without much speed ... Weighs about 245, but is only 5-9, which makes him difficult to bring down ... Can he block well enough to make the NFL?

Good Move: Bradley could have an impact on this defense right away.

Tell Me Why: Trading with Dallas in the first round? And then taking a quarterback with top pick? Is Donovan McNabb damaged goods?

Could Surprise: Celek won't be a deep threat, but he can make plays and block.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

B

1 (15) Lawrence Timmons, LB, Florida State
A junior with the tools to become an NFL starter ... Quick, can burst through blockers to pressure quarterback or stay with backs on pass patterns ... Only started for one season, so might need some refinement ... Needs to play the strong side, where he can deliver some stunning hits.

2 (46) LaMarr Woodley, LB, Michigan
In many games, he made all the plays with his 4.68 speed ... But, like most other Wolverines defenders, he disappeared for much of Ohio State game and Rose Bowl ... Off-season injuries hampered workouts ... Has strength and good fundamentals, but seems to tire in games ... Could be a sack machine if used correctly in the 3-4 by Steelers.

3 (77) Matt Spaeth, TE, Minnesota
Won Mackey Award as top college tight end, then hurt shoulder ... Much more of a blocker than a receiver ... Runs good routes, but won't get free a lot in the NFL ... Needs to be a bit stronger ... Hard to bring down when he makes a catch.

4 (112) Daniel Sepulveda, P, Baylor
First punter taken by Steelers in 22 years, will replace veteran Chris Gardocki ... Pittsburgh traded up to get two-time Ray Guy Award winner as top punter in college football ... Good athlete with strong leg and good hang time.

4 (132) Ryan McBean, DT, Oklahoma State
Fast for a DT and very athletic ... Can get to the outside and make plays, and he did well in workouts ... A bit undersized to be full-timer at tackle, might need to play some end ... Can be overpowered inside.

5 (156) Cameron Stephenson, G, Rutgers
Versatile, also can play center ... Might be groomed to replace star Alan Faneca, who could leave after this season ... Pulls pretty well, but needs to upgrade footwork ... A standout in the weight room.

5 (170) William Gay, CB, Louisville
Has a mean streak, which should show on kick coverages ... Not a threat to start this year on the corner, but should be dime back ... Experienced, but on a mediocre defense where he was not a standout.

7 (227) Dallas Baker, WR, Florida
Tall (6-3) and solid ... One of top wideouts in SEC last year, but was overshadowed by touchdown makers ... Reliable, has played in many big games ... Certainly worth such a low pick.

Good Move: Timmons will replace Joey Porter and be steadier down the line, if not as spectacular.

Tell Me Why: Why shouldn't the Steelers be a Super Bowl contender after last year's flop?

Could Surprise: Spaeth, as a glorified tackle and short-yardage tight end, could have an impact.

1 (13) Adam Carriker, DT, Nebraska
Stock has risen since season's end ... He impressed Rams with his versatility at 6-6, over 300 pounds ... Did very well with his workouts and at Senior Bowl ... Played end in college, but Rams have him ticketed to play inside.

2 (52) Brian Leonard, RB, Rutgers
Versatile back who was cornerstone of turnaround by Scarlet Knights' program ... Could contribute as runner, blocker, receiver and leader ... At 6-2, 226, Leonard would get use in all kinds of situations and possibly could play special teams ... Has been called a smaller Mike Alstott and probably is a superior runner ... Look for him to catch a lot of passes for Rams.

3 (84) Jonathan Wade, CB, Tennessee
A good cover guy when he doesn't get sloppy ... A former wideout who moved in part because he didn't catch the ball cleanly ... Fast, was a track guy before going full-time to football ... Has catch-up speed, but needs it a little too often ... A good athlete.

5 (139) Dustin Fry, C/G, Clemson
Strong and experienced, but not very mobile ... Has had some injury problems that caused him to get sloppy ... Solid in pass blocking and opening space for runners ... Will need some time to develop.

5 (154) Cliff Ryan, NT, Michigan State
Very quick for the position, can also play some end ... Won't be a sack guy, though ... Works hard and has a good motor ... Worth a look here because his energy will rub off on other Rams.

6 (190) Ken Shackleford, T, Georgia
Inexperienced, did show some pass-blocking skills for Dawgs ... Won't be a factor this season if he makes roster ... Could develop best on practice squad ... Rams love his size (6-5, 322).

7 (248) Keith Jackson, DT, Arkansas
No, not the former Eagles/Packers star tight end, but that is his father ... And not the college football announcer ("Whoa, Nelly!") ... Seriously, strong and athletic enough to make an impact down the road for Rams ... A bit raw and should be a situational guy as a rookie.

7 (249) Derek Stanley, WR, Wisconsin-Whitewater
Small size, small school, but big heart and skill ... Not afraid to get hit and is hard to bring down, despite lack of size ... Not technically brilliant, but how many small-college guys are? ... Should help in several phases of special teams.

Good Move: First two picks will have impact quickly, and free-agent moves were solid.

Tell Me Why: The Rams can't contend in the mediocre NFC West?

Could Surprise: Rams have struggled finding DTs, but Ryan brings some nice qualities.

1 (30) Craig Davis, WR, Louisiana State
The other top receiver from Baton Rouge (along with Dwayne Bowe), Davis made some big plays for Tigers last year ... Was set back a bit by injuries in his college career ... Not the hardest worker, but has some toughness and a lot of separation speed ... Figures to be more of a No. 2 wideout for San Diego, although who is No. 1 is uncertain.

2 (37) Eric Weddle, S, Utah
Very versatile, played a bunch of positions for Utes ... One of his best performances was in 2005 Emerald Bowl against Calvin Johnson ... Also should help Chargers on special teams ... Makes big plays wherever he is placed ... Has leadership skills, too.

3 (96) Anthony Waters, LB, Clemson
Diligent and rugged ... Doesn't back down, but his torn ACL from last season is a major concern ... How much will he have left after recovery from injury? Obviously, the Chargers are optimistic ... Could be worth the wait because he has no quit.

4 (129) Scott Chandler, TE, Iowa
Huge (6-7, 265) and intelligent, but not as tough as he needs to be ... Will work hard to improve ... Could add some weight and wind up as a tackle ... Moves well for his size ... A developmental player worth the pick.

5 (172) Legedu Naanee, WR, Boise State
Many scouts loved his versatility, a Hines Ward type ... Was a quarterback before switching outside ... Showed his talents by leading Broncos in receiving in high-powered offense ... Good size, as well.

7 (240) Brandon Siler, LB, Florida
A playmaker at times, but probably needed another year with Gators ... Diligent, understands the game ... Much better against runs than passes ... Had knee problem at end of championship season ... A project with lots of potential.

Good Move: Let's see: Weddle, Chandler, Waters, Naanee, Siler all can help down the road.

Tell Me Why: Davis was a reach even at the end of the first round, which is why Chargers don't get a higher mark.

Could Surprise: Several players, with Naanee the most promising.

1 (11) Patrick Willis, LB, Mississippi
Unquestionably this year's best linebacker ... Makes all the plays everywhere; plays bigger than his 6-1, 242-pound physique ... A hustler who is smart and instinctive ... Can handle pass coverage, too ... Might struggle against the run, if anywhere, but not too badly ... Has some injuries on his resume.

1 (28) Joe Staley, T, Central Michigan
Even though he didn't play against the best competition, Staley has impressed with his quickness and intelligence ... A former tight end who was the fastest tackle in 40 workouts at 4.75 ... Goes after defensive linemen and can get to the second level ... Main question is his pass protection ability, but he's coachable and should handle it well.

3 (76) Jason Hill, WR, Washington State
Terrific speed, one of the fastest guys in the draft ... Also has pretty good size ... Has had some injury issues ... Some scouts question how hard he works and he didn't do much as a senior ... Has some versatility and also might be a good kick returner.

3 (97) Ray McDonald, DE, Florida
Might not be more than a situational player after being plagued by injuries in college ... Has had both knees operated on ... Might wind up being good at one element of the game, but not everything ... Not as good a prospect as teammate Jarvis Moss.

4 (104) Jay Moore, LB, Nebraska
Non-stop worker who overachieves with limited skills ... Has some versatility and understands defenses ... Also has leadership ability ... Won't be a star, but a solid pick for Niners kind of defense.

4 (126) Dashon Goldson, S, Washington
A cornerback in college, but lack of true speed makes him a free-safety prospect ... Probably needs to add some size ... Should be useful covering slot receivers ... Much better in passing game than against the run.

4 (135) Joe Cohen, DL, Florida
More likely to play end in pros than tackle ... Needs to get a little quicker, which means lighter, too ... Hard worker, very coachable ... Could help on special teams ... A project.

5 (147) Tarell Brown, CB, Texas
Plays hard, works hard ... Must improve his fundamentals, especially footwork and recognition ... Mediocre hands ... Has had some off-field issues, including marijuana possession.

6 (186) Thomas Clayton, RB, Kansas State
Bad rep after playing his way out of lineup on and off the field ... Well-built and powerful ... Will have to show willingness to work on special teams ... And will have to stay out of trouble; he gets one chance.

Good Move: Taking Willis to solidify linebacking, then moving back into first round for left tackle of future.

Tell Me Why: Other than Staley, the line wasn't improved.

Could Surprise: Hill could be a big-play starter this year if he works at it.

2 (55) Josh Wilson, CB, Maryland
Short but hits hard and can really move ... One of the fastest players in the draft and he's improved as a cornerback ... Has some technique issues, but not a lot ... He can be fooled on some routes in man coverage ... Could help right away on special teams in Seattle.

3 (85) Brandon Mebane, DT, California
Very inconsistent, but is terrific when he is on ... Came on in off-season work to move much higher in the draft ... Smart player who will get better as his fundamentals improve ... Favorite move is clubbing guards to then surge into backfield.

4 (120) Baraka Atkins, DE, Miami
Should be able to handle strong side, and might work well inside on passing downs ... Excellent hands that often got him an edge on blockers in college ... Has played inside, but is nowhere near big enough to do so in NFL ... Was benched at one point in 2006, then returned to play pretty well.

4 (124) Mansfield Wrotto, G, Georgia Tech
Cool name, born in Liberia ... Very quick for a guard, can handle LBs and DEs as well as tackles ... Inexperienced, has problems with staying on his feet and has a lot to learn after moving from defensive line ... Pass protection not nearly as good as run blocking ... A developmental player.

5 (161) Will Herring, LB, Auburn
Active and athletic ... Played safety for Tigers, but was more of a hybrid DB/LB ... Should help immediately on special teams in Seattle ... Has a feel for the ball.

6 (197) Courtney Taylor, WR, Auburn
Could be a good possession receiver for Seahawks ... Not particularly fast, but can fool you ... Knows how to find open spots and has good hands ... Not real experienced in passing attack, might take some time to develop ... Good size (6-1, 204) and can take a hit.

6 (210) Jordan Kent, WR, Oregon
Excellent athlete whose best sport was basketball ... Son of Ducks basketball coach Ernie Kent ... A three-sport star who needs a lot of seasoning ... Could wind up on practice squad to start off in Seattle.

7 (232) Steve Vallos, T/G, Wake Forest
A leader and dependable player, but not much of a pro prospect ... Might need to get heavier than college weight of 303 to help this offense ... Seahawks liked his attitude, but he wasn't even invited to combine.

Good Move: Defense needed more athleticism and got it with first three picks.

Tell Me Why: The offensive line didn't get as much attention as warranted.

Could Surprise: Herring is a bit of a project, but has terrific potential once he adjusts to linebacker.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
B+

1 (4) Gaines Adams, DE, Clemson
Hands down the best defensive end in this crop ... Makes plays from sideline to sideline ... Versatile, although he can be overpowered ... Tall and rangy, will get to the quarterback on pass rush ... Really comes off the snap quickly ... Won't be a big factor against the run unless he bulks up from 260.

2 (35) Arron Sears, G, Tennessee
Very experienced ... Also plays tackle, but fits better inside ... Tough to get around, although his footwork needs improvement ... Has gotten by at times on size and strength ... Better in the run than in protection, but not a liability there.

2 (64) Sabby Piscitelli, S/LB, Oregon State
Moves well and made plays all over the field as a college safety ... Hard worker ... Probably not fast enough to stay in secondary ... Should help Bucs on kick teams ... Chosen here because of his attitude.

3 (68) Quincy Black, LB, New Mexico
One of the fastest linebackers in the draft, but is more athlete than football player ... Likes to blitz and gets there regularly ... Can cover backs and tight ends ... Not much against the run and has a lot to learn about positioning.

4 (106) Tanard Jackson, S, Syracuse
Also could wind up at cornerback ... Good player on mediocre team ... Might do best in a zone ... Hits hard and can shake the ball loose ... Versatile ... Should have a role on special teams.

5 (141) Greg Peterson, DT, North Carolina Central
Bucs believe they can use him at end, as well ... Fast and tall, but raw ... Good work ethic ... Former junior college player who will need time to develop.

6 (182) Adam Hayward, LB, Portland State
A finalist for Payton Award as top Division I-AA player ... Big Sky's top defensive player, he can play all linebacker positions ... Should be a factor on special teams, as well ... Very much worth this spot.

7 (214) Chris Denman, G/T, Fresno State
Might have to play guard in pros ... Doesn't have the movement to be a left tackle and probably fits better inside ... Has length and strength ... Can be beaten by speed rushers, which could be his downfall with Bucs.

7 (245) Marcus Hamilton, CB, Virginia
Not real dependable, can be fooled ... Also has poor hands ... Moves pretty well and can hit ... Not always aggressive, though, and can be blocked by one opponent, including receivers ... Has a long way to go.

7 (246) Ken Darby, RB, Alabama
With his talent, should have done more for Tide ... Sloppy techniques, but that's coachable ... Will burst through a hole and is excellent in the open field, although not particularly fast for a tailback ... Has some power at 211 pounds ... Needs a push from Gruden.

Good Move: Bucs got value almost everywhere, and their first pick was draft's best defensive player.

Tell Me Why: In topsy-turvy conference, why can't the Bucs rebound into contention?

Could Surprise: Several picks, most prominently Hayward, a likely contributor almost immediately in some fashion.

TENNESSEE TITANS
C

1 (19) Michael Griffin, S, Texas
A winner who makes big plays ... Fast for a safety and also sees the field well ... Doesn't get fooled often ... Excels on special teams, too ... Might not be a big factor against the run for Titans.

2 (50) Chris Henry, RB, Arizona
His lack of hard work could be a pivotal drawback ... Had strong off-season workouts after a so-so junior year with Wildcats ... Has a burst to go with his power ... The athletic skills are there and he is 230 pounds ... No relation to troubled and suspended Bengals receiver.

3 (80) Paul Williams, WR, Fresno State
Needs to prove he will work hard and has the concentration to play a full game ... Comes off so-so season for a disappointing team ... Has decent size and the speed to be effective ... Pretty athletic ... Might help on kick teams.

4 (115) Leroy Harris, C/G, North Carolina State
Struggled more than he should have as Wolfpack program hit the skids ... Did not show enough movement and had trouble with blitzers up the middle and quick linebackers ... Kind of stationary ... Works hard, though, and won't back down ... Has upside.

LaRON LANDRY • WASHINGTON

4 (128) Chris Davis, WR, Florida State
Could replace suspended Pacman Jones as punt returner ... Fits in the slot; shows some dangerous downfield moves ... Must become more dependable ... Won't be rushed by Titans.

5 (152) Antonio Johnson, DT, Mississippi State
Very inexperienced, but quite an athlete ... Only a part-time starter for weak team last season, but he came on in off-season workouts ... Great size ... Will need time to learn and develop for Titans, but not as big a reach as you might think.

6 (188) Joel Filani, WR, Texas Tech
Very productive in the Red Raiders' unique offense ... Works hard; has intelligence and some strength ... Won't get deep, but will find seams ... Should work best in the slot for Titans.

6 (204) Jacob Ford, DE, Central Arkansas
Very quick at 6-4, 249, will be a situational pass rusher to start off ... Might even see some time at outside linebacker ... Has to upgrade his technique and get more versatile ... Grew up a Titans fan.

6 (206) Ryan Smith, CB, Florida
Came out after helping win national championship as a junior ... A foot injury slowed him as a sophomore after breakthrough freshman season ... Athletic, but not particularly physical ... Also needs to work on technique.

7 (223) Mike Otto, T, Purdue
Very experienced, has some leadership skills ... Tall, strong, but not real mobile ... Could wind up on practice squad, although there's a spot for a backup blocker.

Good Move: Williams, Davis and Filani all could have roles in the passing game.

Tell Me Why: Henry is a reach at No. 50 with other, better prospects available.

Could Surprise: Ford is raw, but with solid coaching, can be a contributor.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS
B

1 (6) LaRon Landry, S, Louisiana State
The best playmaker in a terrific secondary at LSU ... Has size, excellent speed to handle most receivers, and strength ... Never gets intimidated ... Should be as effective against the run as the pass ... Durable ... Brother Dawan starts for Ravens ... Might help on special teams, too ... Should start right away for Redskins.

5 (143) Dallas Sartz, LB, Southern Cal
Plays hurt, although he missed much of junior year with shoulder problem ... Does well in coverage and against passing game overall ... A liability against the run, in part because he seems to doubt what he needs to do ... Was well-coached in college, so how much upside does he have?

6 (179) H.B. Blades, LB, Pittsburgh
Father Bennie and uncles Al and Brian were NFLers as well as college standouts ... Hits a ton even though he's only 5-11, 236 ... Not much on pass coverage, could wind up a situational player and special-teams demon ... Has the pedigree to be better than that, though.

6 (205) Jordan Palmer, QB, Texas-El Paso
Brother of Bengals star Carson Palmer ... Not nearly in his sibling's class ... Has struggled with where to go with the ball under pressure ... Tall and solid ... Mechanics are lacking ... Aims the ball at times, making him susceptible to picks.

7 (216) Tyler Ecker, TE, Michigan
Versatile, intelligent and wants it ... Not much of an athlete, can be covered one-on-one by linebackers ... Strong fundamentals ... Tough to tackle, but will he get open enough? ... A project for Skins.

Good Move: Landry is a playmaker who should boost an unaccomplished defense.

Tell Me Why: Why doesn't owner Dan Snyder stay out of the way on draft day?

Could Surprise: Blades has the tools to be effective; some thought he was first-day material.

Homeless Players

The following players were not on NFL rosters as of press time

Player, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College	Gms	Last Team
*Anderson, Bennie (G)	6-5	345	7	Tennessee State	2/2	Dolphins
Injury ended his 2006 season, and there hasn't been much interest.						
Andruzzi, Joe (G)	6-3	315	11	So. Connecticut	14/14	Browns
His veteran leadership can help somebody.						
*Arrington, LaVar (OLB)	6-3	257		Penn State	6/5	Giants
String might have run out for undisciplined player.						
Badger, Brad (G)	6-4	320	11	Stanford	8/0	Raiders
Might get a chance as a veteran backup.						
*Bartee, William (CB)	6-1	200	8	Oklahoma	0/0	Chiefs
Like many on this list, coming off an injury.						
Bowen, Matt (S)	6-1	202	8	Iowa	5/0	Bills
Might be able to help a team on special teams.						
Brooks, Aaron (QB)	6-4	220	9	Virginia	8/8	Raiders
The phone isn't ringing for once promising quarterback.						
Brown, Chris (RB)	6-3	220	5	Colorado	5/3	Titans
Injuries have kept him from being a sought-after player.						
*Brown, Courtney (E)	6-4	285	8	Penn State	0/0	Broncos
Great talent, but never has been able to stay healthy.						
*Bryant, Antonio (WR)	6-2	188	6	Pittsburgh	14/13	49ers
Will miss four games under league suspension; teams are avoiding him.						
Carney, John (K)	5-11	185	17	Notre Dame	16/0	Saints
Still has leg in him; someone will come calling when their kicker fails.						
Coakley, Dexter (OLB)	5-10	230	11	Appalachian State	16/5	Rams
Can still provide backup linebacker help and leadership.						
*Coleman, Cosey (G)	6-4	310	8	Tennessee	15/15	Browns
Decent blocker, but coming off an injury.						
Dillon, Corey (RB)	6-1	225	11	Washington	16/14	Patriots
Will retire unless the right situation presents itself.						
Emmons, Carlos (OLB)	6-5	245	12	Arkansas State	12/12	Giants
He's surprised he hasn't found a team yet.						
*Fauria, Christian (TE)	6-4	250	13	Colorado	9/0	Redskins
Teams will be looking for tight ends in the summer.						
*Hall, John (K)	6-3	240	11	Wisconsin	5/0	Redskins
He's been a kicker with persistent injury issues.						
Hankton, Karl (WR)	6-2	202	10	Trinity (Ill.)	16/0	Panthers
He can help a team with special teams play.						
*Hannam, Ryan (TE)	6-2	255	6	Northern Iowa	2/0	Cowboys
When healthy, he's a good blocking tight end.						
*Haynes, Verron (FB)	5-10	222	5	Georgia	7/0	Steelers
Steelers might re-sign him at some point.						
Henderson, William (FB)	6-1	252	12	North Carolina	14/9	Packers
Packers may have been the end of line for Henderson.						
Hicks, Eric (DE)	6-6	280	10	Maryland	16/0	Chiefs
Doesn't have the burst on the edge he once had.						
Jackson, Tyoka (DE)	6-2	280	13	Penn State	15/0	Lions
Good leader, but skills have deteriorated.						
*James, Jeno (G)	6-4	320	8	Auburn	9/9	Dolphins
Once healthy, he will help someone's offensive line.						
Johnson, Keyshawn (WR)	6-4	211	12	USC	16/16	Panthers
Just waiting for the best deal and best team.						
*Johnstone, Lance (DE)	6-5	250	12	Temple	12/0	Raiders
Pass-rushing ability doesn't last forever.						
Jones, Dhani (CLB)	6-1	240	8	Michigan	16/13	Eagles
He's capable of strengthening a team's linebacker corps.						
*Jones, Tebucky (S)	6-2	220	10	Syracuse	0/0	Patriots
Another player with an asterisk, meaning injury.						
Kacyvenski, Isaiah (OLB)	6-1	252	8	Harvard	13/0	Rams
Good special teams player, but he has to accept his role.						
*Kinney, Erron (TE)	6-6	275	8	Florida	0/0	Titans
Big tight end, can block when he is right.						
Knight, Sammy (S)	6-1	215	11	Southern Cal	16/16	Chiefs
Savvy, but not fast, will help someone's back line.						
*Mathis, Kevin (CB)	5-9	185	11	Tenn.-Chattanooga	8/0	Falcons
Career probably over because of injury.						
McCardell, Keenan (WR)	6-1	191	16	UNLV	14/11	Chargers
Started 11 games last season, but age and lack of speed hurts.						
*McCutcheon, D. (CB)	5-10	190		Southern Cal	0/0	Browns
Also must overcome injury that cost him 2006 season.						
*Morton, Chad (KR)	5-8	191	8	Southern Cal	15/0	Giants
Can be explosive kick returner when the wheels are working.						
Moulds, Eric (WR)	6-2	225	12	Mississippi State	16/16	Texans
Does he want too much money to keep playing?						
*Payne, Seth (DT)	6-4	292	11	Cornell	5/2	Texans
Warrior, but has to get to 100 percent.						
Poole, Tyrone (CB)	5-8	190	12	Fort Valley State	14/2	Raiders
Cornerbacks are always in demand.						
Quarles, Shelton (MLB)	6-1	225	11	Vanderbilt	12/12	Buccaneers
Released by Bucs amid mysterious circumstances.						
Reese, Ike (OLB)	6-2	222	10	Michigan State	16/0	Falcons
One of better special teams players in the league.						
Reyes, Tutan (G)	6-3	298	8	Mississippi	6/6	Bills
Can add experience to an offensive line.						
*Shea, Aaron (TE/FB)	6-3	250	8	Michigan	0/0	Chargers
Solid blocker, but has had injury problems.						
Singleton, Al (OLB)	6-2	250	11	Temple	16/6	Cowboys
Waiting for a team to need a linebacker.						
*Teague, Trey (C)	6-5	300	10	Tennessee	0/0	Jets
Injury cost him entire 2006 season.						
Timmerman, Adam (G)	6-4	300	12	South Dakota State	14/13	Rams
Believes he can still play, but there's been little interest.						
Turk, Matt (P)	6-5	240	12	Wis.-Whitewater	16/0	Rams
Will be punting somewhere by the start of the season						
*Verba, Ross (T)	6-4	305	10	Iowa	7/7	Lions
He will price himself out of the game.						
*Villarrial, Chris (G)	6-3	324	12	Indiana (Pa.)	8/8	Bills
Been a good player for a long time, but how much longer?						
Vincent, Troy (S)	6-1	200	16	Wisconsin	9/4	Redskins
He won't sign with anyone until after training camp.						
*Walker, Kenyatta (T)	6-5	302	7	Florida	3/3	Buccaneers
Has never played as well as expectations.						
Weinke, Chris (QB)	6-4	232	7	Florida State	3/3	Panthers
Never was much of a prospect anyway.						
*Wiegert, Zach (T)	6-5	297	13	Nebraska	9/9	Texans
Amazing he lasted this long; injury threatens career.						
*Williams, Domanick (RB)	5-9	227	5	Louisiana State	0/0	Texans
Former Domanick Davis has to get his knee right before playing.						
Wilson, Al (MLB)	6-0	240	9	Tennessee	15/15	Broncos
Waiting for doctors to clear him to play because of neck injury.						
Wistrom, Grant (DE)	6-4	272	10	Nebraska	16/16	Seahawks
Said he's retired, but would play for the right team in the right place.						

LOG ON TO:

www.Cover3Sports.com

COVER 3

expert analysis of college and professional football

FOR EXPERT ANALYSIS OF COLLEGE AND PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

Honest
Informative
Affordable

Cover3 is not just a football prediction service, but a website dedicated to providing a wealth of information and statistics to the football enthusiast. We will have selections available each week during the regular season.

Weekly Rates
Monthly Rates
Seasonal Rates

Documented by
The Sports Monitor of Oklahoma

CHECK US OUT!

www.Cover3Sports.com

A LOOK AHEAD

By John Hadley

Quarterbacks

Hawaii's Colt Brennan is the smallest of the Top-10 rated passers. However, his grit and leadership outweigh any other factors. Brennan returned to Hawaii, surprisingly, after much consideration to entering the 2007 draft. Hawaii coaches deem him the ultimate leader and a surefire prospect at the next level. The new coaching staff at Louisville has an interesting dilemma: How to keep two premier prospects happy. Brian Brohm tops the 2008 list and backup Hunter Cantwell tops the 2009 list. The question is will Cantwell come back after the season having played as a backup again this season. Some believe so. Even more impressive, many scouts believe he could be snatched off the board within the first two rounds. Nebraska's Sam Keller is a star in waiting having sat out last season transferring from Arizona State. Can Erik Ainge stay healthy? Will John David Booty and Chad Henne cap their careers impressively? Andre Woodson was the most improved quarterback in the nation last season with a penchant for making big plays in clutch situations. Overall, this is a terrific senior class bound to spark controversy on draft day.

1. BRIAN BROHM	LOUISVILLE	6-4	225	SENIOR
2. SAM KELLER	NEBRASKA	6-4	227	SENIOR
3. COLT BRENNAN	HAWAII	6-2	195	SENIOR
4. ANDRE WOODSON	KENTUCKY	6-4	240	SENIOR
5. JOHN DAVID BOOTY	SOUTHERN CAL	6-3	200	SENIOR
6. CHAD HENNE	MICHIGAN	6-2	225	SENIOR
7. MATT RYAN	BOSTON COLLEGE	6-4	225	SENIOR
8. ERIK AINGE	TENNESSEE	6-6	220	SENIOR
9. ANTHONY MORELLI	PENN STATE	6-3	220	SENIOR
10. HUNTER CANTWELL	LOUISVILLE	6-4	230	JUNIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Josh Johnson, University of San Diego (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Brian White, Colorado (Sr.); Kyle Wright, Miami (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Cantwell; 2. Mike Teel, Rutgers; 3. Ben Olsen, UCLA; 4. Chase Holbrook, New Mexico State; 5. Chase Daniel, Missouri; 6. Nate Longshore, California; 7. Curtis Painter, Purdue; 8. Graham Harrell, Texas Tech; 9. Pat White, West Virginia (WR-RB); 10. Rhett Bomar, Sam Houston State
WORTHY OF MENTION: Brandon Cox, Auburn (Sr.); Dennis Dixon, Oregon (Sr.); Matt Flynn, Louisiana State (Sr.); Brady Leaf, Washington State (Sr.); Blake Mitchell, South Carolina (Sr.); Paul Smith, Tulsa (Sr.); Brett Meyer, Iowa State (Sr.); Brent Schaeffer, Mississippi (Sr.)

Running Backs

It is already preordained in the minds of many NFL scouts that Darren McFadden will go No. 1 in the 2008 NFL draft. McFadden has a size and speed ratio that has NFL personnel directors watching opened-mouth. McFadden, by the way, is an accomplished passer when called upon for the element of surprise, and a feared kick returner. Furthermore, two scouts uttered comparable words just prior to the 2006 NFL draft that "McFadden would've been the first pick this year, in 2008 or 2009." Get the point, he is considered a franchise player capable of instantly transforming an offense at the next level. McFadden's backup is Felix Jones, also an underclassman, and he is also considered a potential first-round prospect. He has speed, can catch the ball and is one of the best kick returners in the nation. The UA tandem key a spectacular array of underclassmen. WVU's Steve Slaton is a game-breaker as a receiver, runner and/or returner. Even more impressive is the fact that pound-for-pound he is one of the better backfield blockers on this list. He is a tireless worker dedicated to the game. Oregon's Jonathan Stewart is an interesting prospect blessed with the natural skills that has scouts rating him among the 10 best players on the board. However, his production and injuries make him the biggest enigma on the board entering the season. Mike Hart and Ray Rice are hard runners that produce. This position could prove a windfall for those needing feature and/or change of pace backs.

1. DARREN McFADDEN	ARKANSAS	6-2	210	JUNIOR
2. STEVE SLATON	WEST VIRGINIA	5-9	195	JUNIOR
3. MIKE HART	MICHIGAN	5-9	205	SENIOR
4. FELIX JONES	ARKANSAS	6-0	200	JUNIOR
5. RAY RICE	RUTGERS	5-9	205	JUNIOR
6. JAMAAL CHARLES	TEXAS	6-1	200	JUNIOR
7. ALBERT YOUNG	IOWA	5-10	209	SENIOR
8. RYAN TORAIN	ARIZONA STATE	6-1	213	SENIOR
9. JONATHAN STEWART	OREGON	5-10	235	JUNIOR
10. ALLEY BROUSSARD	LOUISIANA STATE	6-0	235	SENIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Tashard Choice, Georgia Tech (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Justin Forsett, California (Sr.); Lynell Hamilton, San Diego State (Sr.); Rafael Little, Kentucky (Sr.); Allen Patrick, Oklahoma (Sr.); Dantrell Savage, Oklahoma State (Sr.); Tony Temple, Missouri (Sr.); Jamario Thomas, North Texas (Sr.); Chauncey Washington, Southern Cal (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. McFadden; 2. Slaton; 3. Jones; 4. Rice; 5. Charles; 6. Stewart; 7. Brandon Ore, Virginia Tech; 8. Ian Johnson, Boise State; 9. James Davis, Clemson; 10. Andre Brown, North Carolina State; 11. Marlon Lucky, Nebraska; 12. Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern; 13. George Stripling, Louisville; 14. Kevin Grady, Michigan; 15. Antone Smith, Florida State
WORTHY OF MENTION: Yvenson Bernard, Oregon State (Sr.); Mark Bonds, Western Michigan (Sr.); Cory Bird, South Carolina (Sr.); Calvin Dawson, Louisiana-Monroe (Sr.); BenJarvus Green-Ellis, Mississippi (Sr.); Kregg Lumpkin, Georgia (Sr.); Chris Markey, UCLA (Sr.); Kalvin McRae, Ohio University (Sr.); Amir Pinnix, Minnesota (Sr.); L.V. Whitworth, Boston College (Sr.)

Fullbacks

What's the old axiom about growing 'em big in Texas? Texas' Henry Melton and A&M's Jorvorskie Lane average out at 6-2, 271 pounds. While Lane appears the more comfortable of the duo between the 20s, Melton is virtually an unstoppable force. Melton has lost but five yards (on well over 100 carries) during his career in Austin. Lane will be given more chances as a feature back this season. Peyton Hillis and Owen Schmitt both lead block for terrific runners, providing ample opportunity for scouts to witness their devastating efforts. Richard Belton follows in a line of underrated fullbacks from Wake Forest. Cincinnati's Doug Jones is basically an offensive guard in the backfield. This group has the potential to rank among the best fullbacks corps assembled for one draft over the last 15 years.

1. HENRY MELTON	TEXAS	6-3	268	JUNIOR
2. JORVORSKIE LANE	TEXAS A&M	6-0	274	JUNIOR
3. PEYTON HILLIS	ARKANSAS	6-1	235	SENIOR
4. OWEN SCHMITT	WEST VIRGINIA	6-2	250	SENIOR
5. RICHARD BELTON	WAKE FOREST	6-1	259	JUNIOR
6. JACOB HESTER	LOUISIANA STATE	6-0	228	SENIOR
7. MICHAEL PITRE	UCLA	5-11	240	SENIOR
8. DOUG JONES	CINCINNATI	6-4	282	SENIOR
9. MIKE COX	GEORGIA TECH	6-1	250	SENIOR
10. CARL STEWART	AUBURN	6-2	232	SENIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Matt Hahn, Penn State (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Tom Busch, Iowa State (Sr.); Dionte Johnson, Ohio State (Sr.); Keon Lattimore, Maryland (Sr.); Joe Surratt, Florida State (Sr.); Justin Valentine, Minnesota (Sr.); Des Williams, Georgia (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1.Melton (TB); 2. Lane (TB); 3. Richard Belton, Wake Forest; 4. Alex Daniels, Minnesota.; 5. Asaph Schwapp, Notre Dame; 6. Brannan Southerland, Georgia; 7. Brock Bolen, Louisville; 8. Fui Vakapuna, Brigham Young
WORTHY OF MENTION: Adam Ballard, Navy (Sr.); Will Paul, Michigan (Sr.)

Wide Receivers

It's a unique year when the state of Kentucky houses two of the hottest wideouts that have scouts inching their names higher up their lists, while the top prospect dons the Oklahoma State jersey. That noted, the most intriguing storyline is the fact that Penn State has three legitimate prospects, all juniors, all capable of bolting after this season. Derrick Williams has shown flashes of brilliance in Happy Valley. He is a speedster that will also receive a few touches a game as a runner. Deon Butler is developing into a difference-maker along with teammate Jordan Norwood. Don't be surprised to see all three selected on the first day of the draft. Adarius Bowman simply wowed scouts with his play last season. He had a 300-yard, four-touchdown game last season highlighting a season that included spectacular grabs. DeSean Jackson is a versatile player capable of going the distance as a receiver and kick returner. Limas Sweed continues the school's tradition of top-notch receivers. Florida State's Greg Carr is the most underrated of the group, his size and speed has numerous scouts singing his virtues. Michigan once again has a terrific tandem, while Maurice Purify could prove to be Nebraska's best wideout

since Irving Fryar. All that noted, Kentucky's Keenan Burton is a high-jumping, ultra-athletic receiver that raised his game last season, as did Mario Urrutia from, in-state rival, Louisville. This group has excellent top-line talent, but lacks the depth of the group selected in April.

1. ADARIUS BOWMAN	OKLAHOMA STATE	6-4	215	SENIOR
2. DESEAN JACKSON	CALIFORNIA	5-11	165	JUNIOR
3. MARIO MANNINGHAM	MICHIGAN	5-11	190	JUNIOR
4. LIMAS SWEED	TEXAS	6-5	220	SENIOR
5. GREG CARR	FLORIDA STATE	6-6	203	JUNIOR
6. DERRICK WILLIAMS	PENN STATE	6-0	203	JUNIOR
7. EARLY DOUCET	LOUISIANA STATE	6-0	205	SENIOR
8. JARETT DILLARD	RICE	5-11	160	JUNIOR
9. MARIO URRUTIA	LOUISVILLE	6-5	230	JUNIOR
10. KEENAN BURTON	KENTUCKY	6-2	195	SENIOR
11. DORIEN BRYANT	PURDUE	5-9	175	SENIOR
12. ANDRE CALDWELL	FLORIDA	6-0	198	SENIOR
13. MAURICE PURIFY	NEBRASKA	6-4	230	SENIOR
14. TODD BLYTHE	IOWA STATE	6-4	210	SENIOR
15. EARL BENNETT	VANDERBILT	6-1	205	JUNIOR
16. HARRY DOUGLAS	LOUISVILLE	5-10	175	SENIOR
17. EDDIE ROYAL	VIRGINIA TECH	5-10	174	SENIOR
18. BILLY PITTMAN	TEXAS	6-0	200	SENIOR
19. ADRIAN ARRINGTON	MICHIGAN	6-3	187	SENIOR
20. DEREK KINDER	PITTSBURGH	6-2	200	SENIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Marcus Monk, Arkansas (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Tony Burks, Mississippi State (Sr.); De'Cody Fagg, Florida State (Sr.); DJ Hall, Alabama (Sr.); Paul Hubbard, Wisconsin (Sr.); Darius Reynaud, West Virginia (Sr.); Taj Smith, Syracuse (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Jackson; 2. Manningham; 3. Carr; 4. Williams; 5. Dillard; 6. Urrutia; 7. Bennett; 8. Jaison Williams, Oregon; 9. Patrick Turner, Southern Cal; 10. Davone Bess, Hawaii; 11. Malcolm Kelly, Oklahoma; 12. Deon Butler, Penn State; 13. James Hardy, Indiana; 14. Brian Robiskie, Ohio State; 15. Jordan Norwood, Penn State
WORTHY OF MENTION: Donnie Avery, Houston (Sr.); Darrell Blackman, North Carolina State (Sr.); Michael Bumpus, Washington State (Sr.); Rudy Burgess, Arizona State (Sr.); Cameron Colvin, Oregon (Sr.); Michael Ford, Wyoming (Sr.); Amarri Jackson, South Florida (Sr.); Robert Jordan, California (Sr.); Lance Leggett, Miami (Sr.); Josh Morgan, Virginia Tech (Sr.); Jason Rivers, Hawaii (Sr.); Sammie Stroughter, Oregon State (Sr.); Ernie Wheelwright, Minnesota (Sr.)

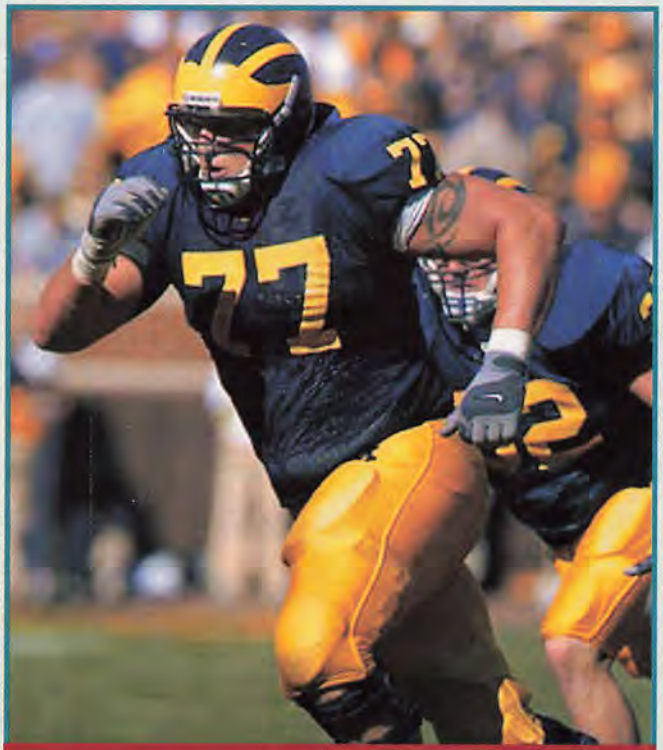


PHOTO BY CHRIS BERNACCHI/SPORTPICS

JAKE LONG • MICHIGAN

Tight Ends

It's rare that one college can dress two of the best tight ends in the country. It's equally rare that the two are rated by some rate as elite pass-catchers. To make it as rare as the Hope Diamond ... both play in Columbia, Mo. Martin Rucker and Chase Coffman literally rate as one of the best tight-end combinations in Big 12 history and among the best of the last three decades. While Rucker tops the list, Coffman leads a very strong group of juniors that could bolster this position into one of the best this decade. Notre Dame's John Carlson, a former quarterback, seemingly improved game-to-game last season. Wake Forest has the second-best tight end tandem in the country while Southern Cal's Fred Davis continues to rise.

1. MARTIN RUCKER	MISSOURI	6-4	245	SENIOR
2. JOHN CARLSON	NOTRE DAME	6-5	255	SENIOR
3. TRAVIS BECKUM	WISCONSIN	6-4	221	JUNIOR
4. CHASE COFFMAN	MISSOURI	6-5	235	JUNIOR
5. JACOB TAMME	KENTUCKY	6-5	240	SENIOR
6. FRED DAVIS	SOUTHERN CAL	6-4	260	SENIOR
7. KORY SPERRY	COLORADO STATE	6-6	250	SENIOR
8. DUSTIN KELLER	PURDUE	6-4	240	SENIOR
9. TOM SANTI	VIRGINIA	6-5	250	SENIOR
10. MARTELLUS BENNETT	TEXAS A&M	6-6	250	JUNIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Chris Hopkins, Toledo (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Gary Barnidge, Louisville (Sr.); Cole Bennett, Auburn (Sr.); Eric Butler, Mississippi State (Sr.); Tate Casey, Florida (Sr.); J.J. Finley, Oklahoma (Sr.); Joey Haynos, Maryland (Sr.); Anthony Hill, North Carolina State (Sr.); Craig Stevens, California (Sr.); John Tereshinski, Wake Forest (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Beckum; 2. Coffman; 3. Bennett; 4. Shawn Nelson, Southern Mississippi; 5. Brandon Pettigrew, Oklahoma State; 6. DajLeon Farr, Miami; 7. Darius Hill, Ball State
WORTHY OF MENTION: Chris Brown, Tennessee (Sr.); Kellen Davis, Michigan State (Sr.); Zach Selmon, Wake Forest (Sr.); Dale Thompson, Southern Cal (Sr.)

Offensive Tackles

This group will offer terrific quality and quantity next spring. Both Sam Baker and Jake Long have the skills to be franchise-foundation tackles. Both could very well be considered among the first five selections come April of 2008. Both could have opted to enter the draft in 2007, but chose to return to their respective college campuses. Both Kirk Barton and Barry Richardson rate right behind the top tandem. However, they have the skills to be equals. Barton displayed significant improvement last season, while Richardson is generally considered the best offensive lineman in the ACC entering the 2007 campaign. Keep an eye on Jeremy Zuttah; his stock continues to skyrocket as scouts have a chance to grade tape. He is a terrific athlete that could break the top five at this position by the end of the season. In fact, Rutgers might have the best tackle duo in the country this season. Auburn's King Dunlap has the natural skills to elevate on the list as well.

1. SAM BAKER	SOUTHERN CAL	6-5	305	SENIOR
2. JAKE LONG	MICHIGAN	6-6	320	SENIOR
3. KIRK BARTON	OHIO STATE	6-5	310	SENIOR
4. BARRY RICHARDSON	CLEMSON	6-5	320	SENIOR
5. MICHAEL OHER	MISSISSIPPI	6-5	330	JUNIOR
6. RYAN CLADY	BOISE STATE	6-6	325	JUNIOR
7. JEREMY ZUTTAH	RUTGERS	6-4	290	SENIOR
8. GEORGE BUSSEY (OG)	LOUISVILLE	6-2	295	JUNIOR
9. GOSDER CHERILUS	BOSTON COLLEGE	6-6	320	SENIOR
10. TONY HILLS	TEXAS	6-5	305	SENIOR

NEXT IN LINE: King Dunlap, Auburn (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Duane Brown, Virginia Tech (Sr.); John Greco, Toledo (Sr.); Brandon Rodd, Arizona State (Sr.); Pedro Sosa, Rutgers (Sr.); Chris Williams, Vanderbilt (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Oher; 2. Clady; 3. Bussey; 4. Jared Gaither, Maryland
WORTHY OF MENTION: Shannon Boatman, Florida State (Sr.); Bobby Byrd, Washington State (Sr.); Mike Gyetvai, Michigan State (Sr.); Ben Hochstein, Nebraska-Omaha (Sr.); Tyler Luellen, Missouri (Sr.); Mike McGlynn, Pittsburgh (Sr.); Sean Sester, Purdue (Sr.); John Shaw, Penn State (Sr.); Phil Trautwein, Florida (Sr.)

Offensive Guards

There is little doubt that scouts will make frequent trips westward looking for interior assistance on the offensive side of the ball. Southern Cal has three legitimate pro prospects on their interior featuring Jeff Byers. He has overcome serious injuries the last two seasons and appears 100 percent, which most assuredly suggests upward movement. Byers has the athleticism and determination to be a dominant force at the next level. Byers could man the center position in 2007. While Southern Cal boasts terrific interior play, Oregon State might have the best tandem in the nation with Jeremy Perry receiving elite grades. Linemate Roy Schuening

is a reliable blue-collar player with terrific fundamentals. Overall, the position has one of the best group of interior underclassmen this decade. Toledo's John Greco would rate as a Top 10 at offensive tackle as well.

1. JEFF BYERS	SOUTHERN CAL	6-3	285	JUNIOR
2. JEREMY PERRY	OREGON STATE	6-2	313	JUNIOR
3. JORDAN GRIMES	PURDUE	6-4	335	SENIOR
4. ADAM KRAUS	MICHIGAN	6-5	300	SENIOR
5. ANDREW CRUMMEY	MARYLAND	6-5	301	SENIOR
6. SHANNON TEVAGA	UCLA	6-3	310	SENIOR
7. WILL ARNOLD	LOUISIANA STATE	6-4	322	SENIOR
8. GEORGE ROBINSON	OKLAHOMA	6-5	330	JUNIOR
9. ROY SCHUENING	OREGON STATE	6-4	315	SENIOR
10. JOHN GRECO	TOLEDO	6-4	318	SENIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Leon Hart, Auburn (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Chester Adams, Georgia (Sr.); Andrew Bain, Miami (Sr.); Kirk Elder, Texas A&M (Sr.); Kalani Heppe, North Carolina State (Sr.); Nate McManus, Georgia Tech (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Byers; 2. Perry; 3. Robinson; 4. Chilo Rachal, Southern Cal; 5. Dallas Reynolds, Brigham Young; 6. Chris DeGeare, Wake Forest
WORTHY OF MENTION: Drew Advice (OT), Southern Cal (Sr.); Khalid Walton, Eastern Michigan

Centers

The quality of the center prospects this season is noted best by stating that any of the top five players listed below were viable candidates to top this list. John Sullivan has garnered much of the preseason publicity, but Steve Justice like many Demon Deacons forced the media, fans and scouts to pay attention last season. Kory Lichtensteiger and Justice made quantum leaps last season and have ample remaining space with their respective potential ceilings.

1. JOHN SULLIVAN	NOTRE DAME	6-4	290	SENIOR
2. STEVE JUSTICE	WAKE FOREST	6-4	295	SENIOR
3. JONATHAN LUIGS	ARKANSAS	6-4	305	JUNIOR
4. ADAM SPIEKER	MISSOURI	6-3	305	SENIOR
5. KORY LICHTENSTEIGER	BOWLING GREEN	6-3	305	SENIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Trevor Rees, Northwestern (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Tony Brinkhaus, Minnesota (Sr.); Jeff Cavender, Boise State (Sr.); Kyle DeVan, Oregon State (Sr.); Scott Lenahan, North Carolina (Sr.); Doug Legursky, Marshall (Sr.); Drew Miller, Florida (Sr.); Mike Pollak, Arizona State (Sr.); Robbie Powell, Purdue (Sr.); Cody Wallace, Texas A&M (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Luigs; 2. Alex Mack, California; 3. Antoine Caldwell, Alabama; 4. Eric Wood, Louisville
WORTHY OF MENTION: Juan Garcia, Washington (Sr.); Robbie Krutilla, Western Michigan; Jamey Richard, Buffalo (Sr.); Matt Spanos (OG), Southern Cal (Sr.); Chris Yoder (OG), Texas A&M (Sr.)

Defensive Ends

There are certain items that balance the universe. When "The University of Miami" has a star defensive lineman that has scouts clamoring, it's sign that all is just right. Calais Campbell is the latest phenom continuing the school's lineage of big time defensive linemen. Campbell has all the physical attributes and the natural pass-rushing ability that all but guarantees success. Derrick Harvey abused Ohio State offensive linemen in a manner rarely witnessed. He's a pure pass-rusher developing the remainder of his game. Texas Christian's Tommy Blake is a bull that plays at full-throttle for 60 minutes creating opportunities and making big plays. Southern Cal's Lawrence Jackson could top this list, but he must become more consistent. Chris Long is the son of former Oakland Raiders great Howie Long. Eric Foster, Louis Holmes and Jameel McClain are players that just missed the Top-10 cut, but they remain on the radar screen of most scouts. The decisions of underclassmen will determine if this position has the desired depth.

1. CALAIS CAMPBELL	MIAMI	6-7	260	JUNIOR
2. DERRICK HARVEY	FLORIDA	6-4	255	JUNIOR
3. LAWRENCE JACKSON	SOUTHERN CAL	6-4	267	SENIOR
4. TOMMY BLAKE	TCU	6-2	250	SENIOR
5. BRUCE DAVIS	UCLA	6-3	236	SENIOR
6. QUENTIN GROVES	AUBURN	6-3	250	SENIOR
7. TYSON JACKSON	LOUISIANA STATE	6-5	290	JUNIOR
8. CHRIS LONG	VIRGINIA	6-4	279	SENIOR
9. CHRIS ELLIS	VIRGINIA TECH	6-5	254	SENIOR
10. VERNON GHOLSTON	OHIO STATE	6-4	260	JUNIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Eric Foster (DT), Rutgers (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Jasper Brinkley (LB), South Carolina (Sr.); Joe Clermond, Pittsburgh (Sr.); Warren Gilberry, Alabama (Sr.); Chris Harrington, Texas A&M (Sr.); Louis Holmes, Arizona (Sr.); Jameel McClain, Syracuse (Sr.); Chase Ortiz, TCU (Sr.); Antonio Reynolds, Tennessee (Sr.); Darrell Robertson, Georgia Tech (Sr.)

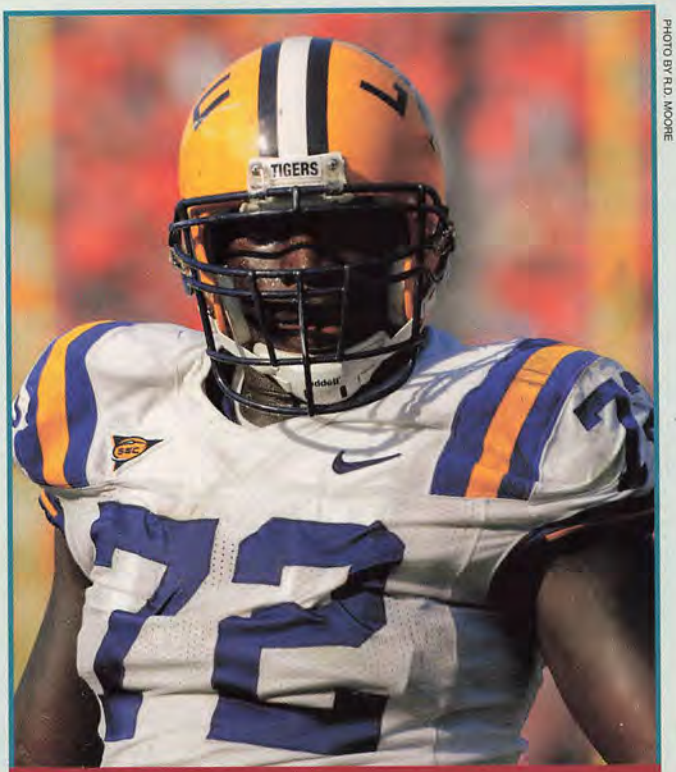


PHOTO BY R.D. MOORE

GLENN DORSEY • LSU

JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Campbell; 2. Harvey; 3. Jackson; 4. Gholston; 5. Antwain Robinson, Arkansas; 6. Ian Campbell, Kansas State; 7. Mitch King, Iowa; 8. Phillip Merling, Clemson; 9. Jamaal Westerman, Rutgers; 10. Derek Walker, Illinois
WORTHY OF MENTION: Titus Brown, Mississippi State (Sr.); Ken Iwebema, Iowa (Sr.); Tim Jamison, Michigan (Sr.); Dexter Manley II, Oregon (Sr.); Trevor Scott, 6-5, 260, Buffalo (Sr.); Chris McKillop, 6-3, 245, Pittsburgh (Sr.)

Defensive Tackles

Glenn Dorsey plays the role of an immovable force with the credentials that make him the perfect pick in the mind of many scouts. He plays with great tenacity and is rarely out of position. He has improved annually with perfect fundamentals. He plays bigger than his frame, rarely loses one-on-one battles, has terrific balance all the while playing a cerebral game. He worked his way up the depth chart fully capitalizing on garnering a starting position. The remainder of this cast remains an enigma wrapped in a riddle. While each of the remaining Top-10 prospects have strengths of note, each too has glaring weaknesses that must be addressed this season. Frank Okam has the ability to be a bull, but has a tendency to disappear much like DeMario Pressley and Andre Fluellen. B.J. Raji has the makeup of a big-time run stuffer.

1. GLENN DORSEY	LOUISIANA STATE	6-2	291	SENIOR
2. DEMARIO PRESSLEY	NORTH CAROLINA STATE	6-3	295	SENIOR
3. ANDRE FLUELLEN	FLORIDA STATE	6-4	292	SENIOR
4. FRANK OKAM	TEXAS	6-4	320	SENIOR
5. KEILEN DYKES	WEST VIRGINIA	6-3	295	SENIOR
6. SEDRICK ELLIS	SOUTHERN CAL	6-1	290	SENIOR
7. B.J. RAJI	BOSTON COLLEGE	6-1	330	SENIOR
8. KEVIN BROWN	UCLA	6-2	299	SENIOR
9. RED BRYANT	TEXAS A&M	6-4	330	SENIOR
10. MARCUS HARRISON	ARKANSAS	6-3	308	SENIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Dre Moore, Maryland (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Nick Hayden, Wisconsin (Sr.); James McClinton, Kansas (Sr.); Chris Norwell, Illinois (Sr.); Justin Ostrowksi, Wisconsin (Sr.); Raji (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Fili Moala, Southern Cal; 2. Delmonte Bolden, Tennessee; 3. Jeff Owens, Georgia; 4. Antonio Dixon, Miami; 5. Roy Miller, Texas; 6. Paul Griffin, Florida State; 7. Myron Pryor, Kentucky; 8. Marlon Favorite, Louisiana State; 9. Charles Alexander, Louisiana State; 10. Terrill Byrd, Cincinnati
WORTHY OF MENTION: Carlton Powell, Virginia Tech (Sr.)

Inside Linebackers

The 2008 NFL draft will feature a terrific trio of interior 'backers capable of being foundation players for defenses. Dan Conner is the equal if not superior to former teammate Paul Posluszny. He constantly revs his motor on every series. It's obvious he has great football aptitude to supplement excellent quickness and agility. Rey Maualuga and James Laurinaitis are hard-core, old-school middle 'backers that attack with nasty intentions. Maualuga excels, whether bulling straight ahead of playing laterally. Laurinaitis plays his best against the best with a knack for creating turnovers. Vince Hall has an innate ability to read and react swiftly to avoid oncoming blockers with the greatest of ease. He plays with fluidity, making the game appear much simpler than reality. While there is a winning trifecta of inside 'backers heading this group, the other top prospects lack the overall game, presently, to be real difference-makers in their first year.

1. DAN CONNER (OLB)	PENN STATE	6-2	225	SENIOR
2. REY MAUALUGA	SOUTHERN CAL	6-1	250	JUNIOR
3. JAMES LAURINAITIS	OHIO STATE	6-2	245	JUNIOR
4. VINCE HALL	VIRGINIA TECH	6-0	236	SENIOR
5. JONATHAN GOFF	VANDERBILT	6-3	240	SENIOR
6. WESLEY WOODYARD (OLB)	KENTUCKY	6-1	215	SENIOR
7. JORDAN DIZON (OLB)	COLORADO	6-0	225	SENIOR
8. JEROD MAYO	TENNESSEE	6-2	230	JUNIOR
9. J LEMAN	ILLINOIS	6-2	240	SENIOR
10. COREY MCKEON	NEBRASKA	6-1	225	SENIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Mike Klinkenborg, Iowa (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Nelson Coleman, Tulsa (Sr.); Weston Dacus, Arkansas (Sr.); Jeremy Leman, Illinois (Sr.); Ben Moffitt, South Florida (Sr.); Philip Wheeler, Georgia Tech (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Maualaga; 2. Laurinaitis; 3. Jerod Mayo, Tennessee; 4. Maurice Crum, Notre Dame; 5. Zack Follett, California; 6. Antonio Clay, Clemson
WORTHY OF MENTION: Joe Brockington, Notre Dame (Sr.); Romeo Davis, Miami (Sr.); Jolonn Dunbar, Boston College (Sr.); Robert Killebrew (OLB), Texas (Sr.); Luke Sanders (OLB), Louisiana State (Sr.); Christian Taylor, UCLA (Sr.)

Outside Linebackers

The depth at this position entering the season appears to be paper-thin. Southern Cal's Keith Rivers and Brian Cushing bolster the offerings that could be the weakest class of the decade. Rivers is a wicked ball-hawk tracking down runners as one of the best pure run defenders this decade. He has improved in coverage, which enhances his value. Xavier Adibi is an active, vocal player that has proven capable of taking over a game with big plays in clutch situations. He must become more consistent and durable to maximize potential. Ali Highsmith is a projection selection based on a sky-high potential ceiling. That noted, he has frustrated many by failing to translate potential into production on the field series to series. Erin Henderson is the brother of Kansas City Chiefs LB E.J. Henderson. Malik Jackson made major strides last season with flair; he could be near the top of this list by the end of the season. Once again, it will take significant advancement by key senior prospects and underclassmen to strengthen this position, which is presently the weakest on the defensive side of the ball.

1. KEITH RIVERS	SOUTHERN CAL	6-3	220	SENIOR
2. XAVIER ADIBI	VIRGINIA TECH	6-2	225	SENIOR
3. ALI HIGHSMITH	LOUISIANA STATE	6-1	230	SENIOR
4. ERIN HENDERSON	MARYLAND	6-3	236	JUNIOR
5. SHAWN CRABLE	MICHIGAN	6-3	245	SENIOR
7. BRIAN CUSHING	SOUTHERN CAL	6-4	245	JUNIOR
8. BO RUUD	NEBRASKA	6-1	235	SENIOR
9. MALIK JACKSON	LOUISVILLE	6-1	235	SENIOR
10. MARCUS FREEMAN	OHIO STATE	6-2	242	JUNIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Alvin Bowen, Iowa State (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Beau Bell, UNLV (Sr.); Derrick Doggett, Oregon State (Sr.); Spencer Larsen, Arizona (Sr.); Brandon Miller, Clemson (Sr.); Travis Thomas (FB), Notre Dame; Brian Toal, Boston College (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Henderson; 2. Cushing; 3. Freeman; 4. Sean Lee, Penn State; 5. Willie Williams, Louisville; 6. Aaron Curry, Wake Forest; 7. Ryan Reynolds (ILB), Oklahoma; 8. Geno Hayes, Florida State
WORTHY OF MENTION: Ezra Butler, Nevada (Sr.); Chris Graham, Michigan (Sr.); Joey LaRocque, Oregon State (Sr.); Nick Watkins, Clemson (Sr.); Thomas Williams, Southern Cal (Sr.)

Cornerbacks

NFL teams have a "Help Wanted" sign permanently attached to the locker-room door for cornerbacks. The 2008 NFL draft will certainly dwindle the need. The senior class has a half-dozen big-time prospects with another five underclassmen capable of equal billing. Arizona's Antoine Cason tops the senior list. He is the school's best flank defender since Chris McAlister. Jack Ikegwuonu tops the list of underclassmen. He made a play in post-season play that is embedded in the cranium of pro scouts as he chased down Arkansas RB Darren McFadden from behind in spectacular fashion. Justin King (speed to burn), Brandon Flowers, Aqib Talib and Malcolm Jenkins round out the highly regarded group of underclassmen. Size, speed, physicality and depth could be in abundance. The SEC, Pac-10, Big East and Big Ten are loaded with talent. Follow those conferences this fall for a sneak preview that will be a wave of new corners coming your way to the NFL in 2008.

1. ANTOINE CASON	ARIZONA	6-0	183	SENIOR
2. DWIGHT LOWERY	SAN JOSE STATE	6-0	190	SENIOR
3. PAUL OLIVER	GEORGIA	6-0	200	SENIOR
4. MIKE JENKINS	SOUTH FLORIDA	6-0	199	SENIOR
5. JACK IKEGWUONU	WISCONSIN	6-1	201	JUNIOR
6. MALCOLM JENKINS	OHIO STATE	6-0	190	JUNIOR
7. JUSTIN KING	PENN STATE	6-0	185	JUNIOR
8. DEJUAN TRIBBLE	BOSTON COLLEGE	5-9	189	SENIOR
9. AQIB TALIB	KANSAS	6-1	183	JUNIOR
10. BRANDON FLOWERS	VIRGINIA TECH	5-9	189	JUNIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Terrell Thomas, Southern Cal (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Simeon Castille, Alabama (Sr.); Chevis Jackson, Louisiana State (Sr.); Tracy Porter, Indiana (Sr.); Glenn Sharpe, Miami (Sr.); Terrence Wheatley, Colorado (Sr.); Jonathan Wilhite, Auburn (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: Ikewuonu; 2. Jenkins; 3. King; 4. Talib; 5. Flowers; 6. Tony Carter, Florida State; 7. Alphonso Smith, Wake Forest; 8. Joe Burnett, Central Florida; 9. Reggie Smith, Oklahoma; 10. Randy Phillips, Miami (Sr.)
WORTHY OF MENTION: Zackary Bowman, Nebraska (Sr.); Trey Brown, UCLA; Antonio Lewis, West Virginia (Sr.); Trae Williams, South Florida (Sr.); Ambrose Wooden, Notre Dame (Sr.); Johnathan Zenon, Louisiana State (Sr.)

Safeties

Tom Zbikowski began the 2006 season with much fanfare as an elite pro prospect playing for a national contender with the spotlight shining brighter as he widened his horizons branching into the boxing game. A year later, Zbikowski will begin the 2007 season with diminished expectations playing for a team in transition with scouts watching his every move. He is one of the most intriguing storylines to follow. Last year at this time, he was considered a first-round pick in waiting. Without a rebound season, the question is will he be a first-day pick this season. Kenny Phillips is one of the 10 best prospects available in the draft. If he proves durable, don't rule out Phillips becoming one of the five best players on the board. Keep an eye on Derek Pegues, making the move from cornerback; he makes plays, big plays. Josh Barrett continues ASU's history of superb safeties.

1. KENNY PHILLIPS	MIAMI	6-1	205	JUNIOR
2. JAMAR ADAMS	MICHIGAN	6-2	214	SENIOR
3. JONATHAN HEFNEY	TENNESSEE	5-9	185	SENIOR
4. DARIEN WILLIAMS	OKLAHOMA	5-10	197	SENIOR
5. DEREK PEGUES	MISSISSIPPI STATE	5-10	192	JUNIOR
6. TOM ZBIKOWSKI	NOTRE DAME	5-11	210	SENIOR
7. CHRIS HORTON	UCLA	6-1	200	SENIOR
8. ERIC WICKS	WEST VIRGINIA	6-1	205	SENIOR
9. JOSH BARRETT	ARIZONA STATE	6-2	225	SENIOR
10. ERIC BROCK	AUBURN	6-1	206	SENIOR

NEXT IN LINE: Jamal Lewis, Georgia Tech (Sr.)
KEEP AN EYE ON: Quintin Demps, Texas-El Paso (Sr.); Marcus Griffin, Texas (Sr.); Tony Joiner, Florida (Sr.)
JUNIOR CLASS: 1. Phillips; 2. Pegues; 3. Anthony Scirrotto, Penn State; 4. Michael Hamlin, Clemson; 5. Kevin Ellison, Southern Cal; 6. Courtney Greene, Rutgers; 7. Otis Wiley, Michigan State; 8. Josh Pinkard, Southern Cal; 9. Chris Clemons, Clemson; 10. Reshard Langford, Vanderbilt
WORTHY OF MENTION: Thomas DeCoud, California (Sr.); Tierre Green, Nebraska (Sr.); Dennis Keyes, UCLA (Sr.); Craig Steltz, Louisiana State (Sr.); Marcus Watts, Kansas State (Sr.); Roger Williams, Florida State (Sr.)

Kicking Specialists

1. ALEXIS SERNA (PK)	OREGON STATE	5-8	160	SENIOR
2. BRANDON COUTU (PK)	GEORGIA	6-0	183	SENIOR
3. GEOFF PRICE (P)	NOTRE DAME	6-2	185	SENIOR
4. JEREMY ITO (PK)	RUTGERS	5-10	181	SENIOR
5. ART CARMODY (PK)	LOUISVILLE	5-8	180	SENIOR
6. CHRIS GOULD (PK)	VIRGINIA	6-1	210	SENIOR
7. ANDREW LARSON (P)	CALIFORNIA	6-0	191	SENIOR
8. DURANT BROOKS (P)	GEORGIA TECH	6-0	198	SENIOR
9. SERGIO AGUAYO (PK)	UNLV	6-0	198	SENIOR
10. JIMMIE KAYLOR (P)	COLORADO STATE	6-2	193	SENIOR

AFC EAST

WHAT ELSE IS NEW? PATRIOTS REMAIN TEAM TO BEAT

In this age of mandated parity, the New England Patriots stand apart. Their four consecutive division titles are the NFL's longest streak. They also won the division a fifth time in the last six years, not to mention three Super Bowls.

Two years ago it looked as if Miami, coached by Bill Belichick-protégé Nick Saban, would threaten the Patriots' dominance. But Saban high-tailed it back to the college ranks after a 6-10 season in his second year.

Eric Mangini, another Belichick disciple, emerged as a genius candidate in his first season as coach of the Jets. The hot-and-cold friendship between the two coaches was a soap opera played out in three meetings last year, including a playoff game that set the stage for more drama this season.

BUFFALO BILLS

In their second year as a front-office tandem, general manager Marv Levy and coach Dick Jauron focused on their 30th-ranked offense. Convinced now that J.P. Losman is the answer at quarterback, the Bills signed three projected starters on the offensive line in free agency and used their top draft pick on running back Marshawn Lynch to replace the traded Willis McGahee.

You wonder if those moves will be negated, however, by the loss of three veteran starters on defense, including shutdown corner Nate Clements. The Bills tried to plug the leaks by drafting Penn State linebacker Paul Posluszny in the second round, but it might not be enough.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

New coach Cam Cameron felt he needed to jumpstart his offense with the addition of a game-breaker. But choosing fleet Ohio State receiver and returner Ted Ginn Jr. over Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn with the ninth pick of the first round was a move roundly booed in south Florida.

Cameron found his quarterback-of-the-future in the second round in Brigham Young's John Beck. Former coach Nick Saban left Cameron with an aging defense. The addition of outside linebacker Joey Porter to rush quarterbacks from the opposite side of Defensive Player of the Year Jason Taylor will help in the short-term.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

The Patriots attacked their roster in the off-season like quarterback Tom Brady attacks defenses in a two-minute drill. Brady was the beneficiary of four acquisitions at receiver, the marquee player being Randy Moss. Most teams would have been questioned for rescuing the moody Moss from a losing situation in Oakland, but the Patriots are given the benefit of doubt.

Even before Moss was acquired in a draft-day trade, the Patriots fortified themselves as serious Super Bowl contenders by signing Baltimore linebacker Adalius Thomas in free agency. Everybody assumes that coach Bill Belichick will exploit every ounce of versatility in Thomas and use him virtually anywhere on his defensive front seven.

N.Y. JETS

Perhaps with eyes on New England's fascination with receivers this off-season, the Jets paid heavily with three draft picks to move up 11 spots in the first round to select cornerback Darrelle Revis. It was the biggest move of the off-season for a team that improved by six wins and made the playoffs in coach Eric Mangini's first season.

Certainly Mangini's proven coaching expertise gives the Jets an edge over many opponents. But after a 21-point loss to mentor Bill Belichick in the playoffs, the Jets may be another productive off-season away from challenging the Patriots for the division title.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Can Randy Moss derail the Patriots' Super Bowl express?

It's more likely that the enigmatic receiver will happily hop aboard and return to the form that made him one of the NFL's dominating game-breakers the first five years of his career.

2. How quickly will the Bill Belichick-Eric Mangini "handshake watch" be revisited in the New York sporting prints?

The close friends-turned-hot rivals renew their awkward post-game encounters in a Game 1 meeting on the Jets' home field.

3. Did Buffalo do the right thing in trading Willis McGahee?

Yes. McGahee got what he wanted — a $40 million contract with Baltimore — and the Bills were able to replace him with a quicker, and cheaper, back in top draft pick Marshawn Lynch.

4. Which team is closer to making the playoffs — Buffalo or Miami?

The Bills own the NFL's longest streak of non-playoff seasons (seven). The Dolphins (five) are close behind. With quarterback J.P. Losman turning the corner last year, it appears Buffalo may be closer to post-season play than Miami.

5. Who's the biggest threat to Jason Taylor repeating as NFL Defensive Player of the Year?

It could be New England's Adalius Thomas. Belichick plans to unleash him from all angles on the Patriots' defensive front seven. Veteran defensive players seem to get better when they pull on the Pats' uniform, due to Belichick's expertise.

— Tony Grossi

Save $10.00 on Your Favorite Team!

Don't just be a fan, be an authority!

Your favorite NFL team publication is the best source for inside information! Written for diehard fans who follow each team's activities – from the NFL Draft through training camp, regular season and postseason action – these team-specific publications include exclusive articles and photos, coverage of players and coaches, statistics and strategies ... all in close-up detail.

Toll Free: **1-800-932-4557**

Website: **www.nflpubs.com**

Save $10 off the regular subscription price! Just use code: Lindys07 when you order.

Please Check Each Publication You Wish To Order...

❑ Bear Report, *12 issues*	~~$49.50~~	$39.95
❑ Bengals Report, *15 issues*	~~$35.95~~	$25.95
❑ Bills Digest, *22 issues*	~~$42.95~~	$32.95
❑ Dolphin Digest, *24 issues*	~~$49.95~~	$39.95
❑ Eagles Insider, *8 issues*	~~$29.95~~	$19.95
❑ The Giant Insider, *22 issues*	~~$42.95~~	$32.95
❑ Gridiron Gateway Magazine (Rams), *12 issues*	~~$49.50~~	$39.95
❑ Jets Confidential, *22 issues*	~~$42.95~~	$32.95
❑ The Orange and Brown Report (Browns), *12 issues*	~~$49.50~~	$39.95
❑ Packer Report, *12 issues*	~~$49.50~~	$39.95
❑ Pewter Report (Buccaneers), *12 issues*	~~$39.95~~	$29.95
❑ The Ranch Report (Cowboys), *12 issues*	~~$49.50~~	$39.95
❑ SFI (49ers), *12 issues*	~~$39.95~~	$29.95
❑ Silver & Black Illustrated (Raiders), *22 issues*	~~$42.95~~	$32.95
❑ Steelers Digest, *24 issues*	~~$49.95~~	$39.95
❑ Viking Update, *12 issues*	~~$49.50~~	$39.95
❑ Warpaint Illustrated (Chiefs), *12 issues*	~~$49.50~~	$39.95
❑ Warpath (Redskins), *22 issues*	~~$42.95~~	$32.95

✔YES! I want a subscription to my favorite NFL team(s) publication!

Lindys07

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Method of Payment

❑ Payment Enclosed ❑ Check* or Money Order ❑ Credit or Debit Card

❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Discover ❑ American Express

Card # _____ Exp. Date (mm/yy)_____

**Make Checks Payable to the name of the publication chosen.*

Mail To: American Sports Media, 3495 Winton Place, Building E, Suite 2, Rochester, NY 14623

Fax To: (585) 292-0035

BILLS

2006 RECORD: 7-9 | STADIUM: Ralph Wilson Stadium, 73,967, AstroPlay | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

AFC EAST | www.buffalobills.com

AT A GLANCE

One Bills Drive
Orchard Park, N.Y. 14127
(716) 648-1800

TRAINING CAMP:
St. John Fisher College; Rochester, N.Y.

COACH:
Dick Jauron, 2nd year with Buffalo (7-9), 7th year as NFL head coach (43-59)

GENERAL MANAGER:
Marv Levy

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER:
Tom Modrak

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
John Guy

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Steve Fairchild	Offensive coordinator	7	4
Turk Schonert	Quarterbacks	12	5
Jim McNally	Offensive line	28	4
Sean Kugler	Assistant line	6	1
Eric Studesville	Running backs	11	4
Tyke Tolbert	Receivers	5	4
Charlie Coiner	Tight ends	7	2
Alex Van Pelt	Offensive quality control	2	2
Perry Fewell	Defensive coordinator	10	2
Bill Kollar	Defensive line	19	2
Matt Sheldon	Linebackers	7	2
George Catavolos	Secondary	23	2
Chuck Lester	Assistant to head coach	21	21
Bobby April	*Special teams	16	4
DeMontie Cross	Def. Special teams asst.	2	2
John Allaire	Strength & Conditioning	6	6

*Assistant head coach

Commitment Made to Upgrade Offensive Line

The Buffalo Bills' offense has ranked among the bottom eight in the NFL in yards gained four straight years.

The mission of Bills general manager Marv Levy during the off-season was to pull the attack out of its long slumber. Levy's method? Fortify the offensive line.

If the Bills are going to have a winning season in 2007 — and their brain trust thinks they're on the verge of doing just that — then it will be because they finally transformed their front five from a weakness into a strength.

The Bills committed $75 million — at least on paper — to their offensive line on the first day of free agency. They gave a $49 million deal, the richest in team history, to guard Derrick Dockery of Washington. They gave a $25 million deal to right tackle Langston Walker of Oakland. They fortified their depth by signing veteran Jason Whittle for just under $1 million.

The Bills have been trying to upgrade their offensive line on the cheap for the better part of a decade. They have used only three first-day draft picks on offensive linemen in the past 12 years, and one of those was colossal bust Mike Williams. In a sense, their big commitment was overdue.

Coach Dick Jauron thinks young quarterback J.P. Losman and the passing game will be the big beneficiaries of a stronger offensive line. The Bills know they must score more points this year. Their defense lost three of its four biggest names — Nate Clements, London Fletcher and Takeo Spikes.

COACHING

Jauron came to Buffalo with a reputation for getting his team to play hard, and that was evidenced in his first season. The Bills did better than many expected by going 7-9. They lost by one at Indianapolis, two at New England and three at San Diego. The team played smart and looked organized. Now he must get them to take a step forward.

Offensive coordinator Steve Fairchild and quarterbacks coach Turk Schonert did a good job with Losman. Line coach Jim McNally is one of the best technicians in the game. Defensive coordinator Perry Fewell did a good job with two rookie safeties as starters. He may have a tougher time calling coverages this year without Clements at corner. Bobby April is one of the game's finest special teams coaches.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

Losman took a big step forward last season. He improved his completion percentage from 49.5 — the worst of any starting quarterback in 2005 — to 62.5 percent, ninth best in the league. He improved his passer rating from 64.9 — second worst in 2005 — to 84.9, 11th best in the league. He proved he is not a bust, that he is competent. The next step is to prove he can be a playoff-caliber quarterback. He will be in the same offensive system for the second

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
RB Marshawn Lynch

He arguably was the toughest runner in college football last year. He brings 4.46 speed in the 40. He catches passes. Look for him to make a Steven Jackson-type impact.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
G Derrick Dockery, RB/KR Josh Scobey, DT Darwin Walker, T Langston Walker, C/G Jason Whittle

KEY LOSS:
CB Nate Clements (16/16)*
Star cornerbacks are hard to replace unless you find them in the first round of the draft. The Bills may have to play a lot more zone coverages without him.

OTHER LOSSES
S Matt Bowen (5/0), WR Andre Davis (16/1), LB London Fletcher (16/16), G Mike Gandy (16/16), QB Kelly Holcomb (0/0), RB Willis McGahee (14/14), G Tutan Reyes (6/6), FB Daimon Shelton (14/10), LB Takeo Spikes (12/11), G Chris Villarrial (8/8)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
15; 7 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

consecutive year. That should help. He should have better protection. That should help. Now let's see if he can have more than three 250-plus passing games — his total from last year. Craig Nall gets the chance to be No. 2 after an injury-plagued preseason a year ago. The Bills drafted Stanford's Trent Edwards, who has great measurables, to push Nall and be a prospect for the future.

RATING: 7

RUNNING BACKS

Goodbye Willis McGahee, hello Marshawn Lynch. The Bills traded McGahee a year before his contract was due to run out because they knew they weren't going to re-sign him to a big deal. They also knew he probably would be happier elsewhere. So they used the 12th pick in the draft to take someone they hope is a bit better than McGahee. Lynch, 5-11 and 215 pounds, runs hard, breaks tackles and has the speed to turn the corner. He is an outstanding receiver. Expect the Bills to utilize him a lot more out of the backfield than they used McGahee. Veteran Anthony Thomas, a favorite of Jauron's, will spell Lynch. Rookie fourth-round pick Dwayne Wright is a hard runner between the tackles. He offers depth, too. But Lynch should get the bulk of the work. The Bills opted not to re-sign fullback Daimon Shelton. They will go with an H-back if they want a two-back set.

RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

Lee Evans proved he is a quality No. 1 receiver last year with 82 catches for 1,292 yards and eight touchdowns. He can get deep on anyone, and he can catch balls over the middle. The Bills have two good slot receivers in Josh Reed and Roscoe Parrish. Where they need better production is at No. 2 receiver, Peerless Price, and tight end, Robert Royal. Price averaged just 8.2 yards on 49 catches. Royal had 23 catches. The Bills say their totals were suppressed by the fact the team too often had to keep extra people in to block to compensate for shoddy pass protection.

With a better line, the tight end and back should get out in the patterns more, and there will be more openings for Price. If the Bills can get good protection, they have a potentially dangerous four-receiver set. Behind Royal, the Bills hope third-year man Kevin Everett, a talented athlete, emerges as a contributor. Brad Cieslak, Ryan Neufeld and rookie Derek Schouman all could contribute in the H-back role.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Dockery will play left guard and team with left tackle Jason Peters to form what should be a dominant duo. Dockery, a massive 335-pounder, is a proven commodity. He has 63 straight starts under his belt and blossomed last year under the tutelage of Washington aide Joe Bugel. The Bills think Peters, 25, has Pro Bowl ability. He was impressive after shifting to the left side the second half of last season. Center Melvin Fowler is smart and mobile.

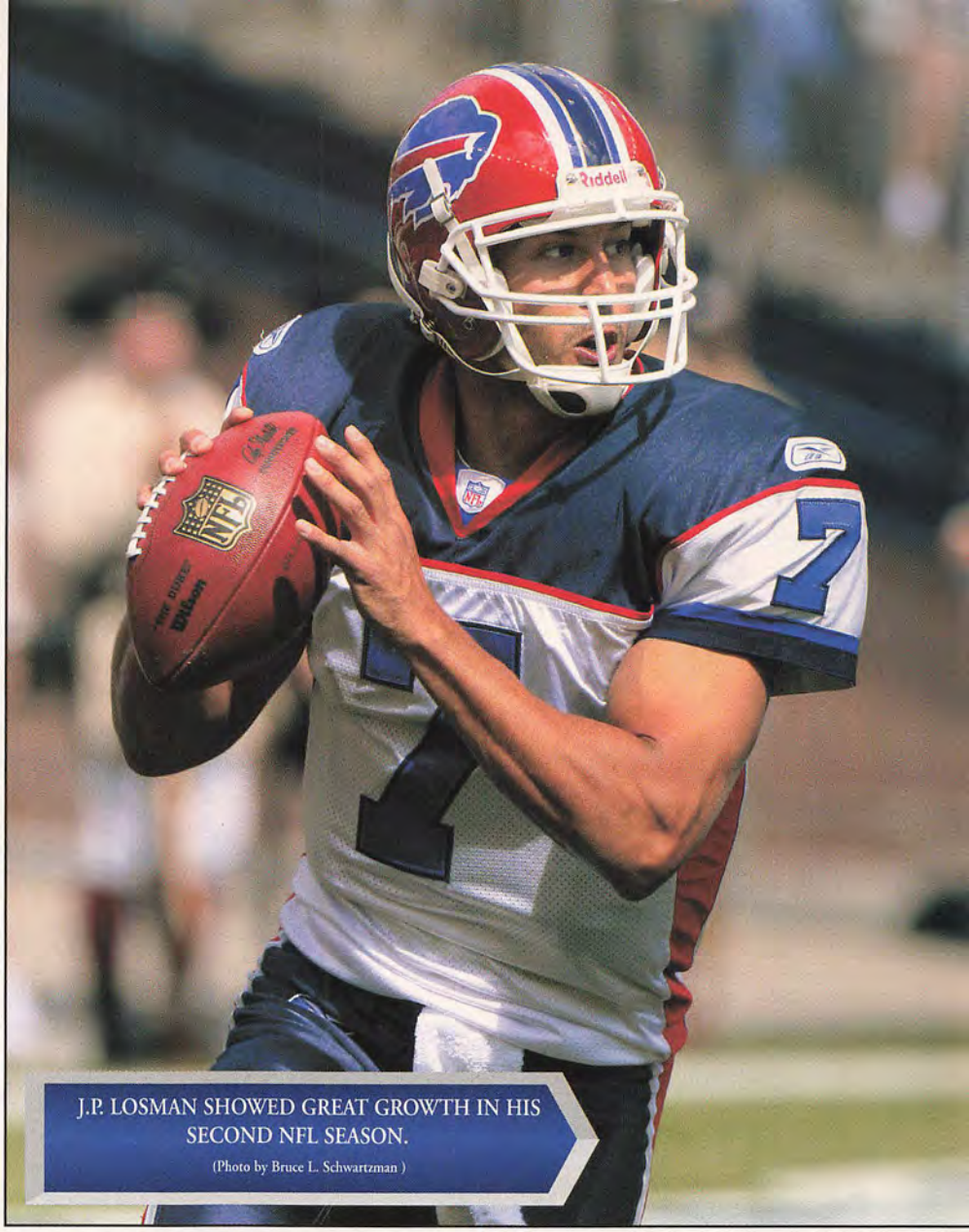
Either Duke Preston or Brad Butler should be OK at right guard. The question is Walker, who played on the poorest pass-blocking unit in the league last year. He's a talent, and a former second-round pick. He's also light on his feet. Can line coach Jim McNally make him excel? If so, the Bills have a stellar line. Terrence Pennington backs up at tackle, Whittle backs up inside.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

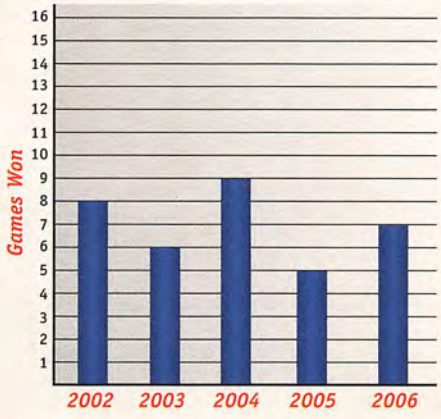
The Bills have pretty good speed, mobility and depth on this unit. They tackle the line of scrimmage well. Left end Aaron Schobel had 14 sacks and made the Pro Bowl. Right end Chris Kelsay is a high-motor rusher who's decent against the run. Ryan Denney is a good No. 3 end. There is depth at tackle. The question is stoutness. There wasn't enough of it last year. While the Bills were 10th in sacks, they were just 28th in rushing yards allowed.

They have two new additions that may make



J.P. LOSMAN SHOWED GREAT GROWTH IN HIS SECOND NFL SEASON.
(Photo by Bruce L. Schwartzman)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: None*

Bills Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
89	Aiken, Sam	6-2	215	5	North Carolina	15/0	D4 03	D4 BUFF 03	Standout special teamer is the lone Bills receiver with size.
86	**Cieslak, Brad (TE)**	**6-3**	**253**	**2**	**Northern Illinois**	**7/2**	**FA 05**	**OFA BUFF 05**	**Versatile H-back won No. 2 tight end job late last season.**
83	**Evans, Lee**	**5-10**	**197**	**4**	**Wisconsin**	**16/15**	**D1 04**	**D1 BUFF 04**	**Excellent route runner with the speed to regularly get deep.**
85	Everett, Kevin (TE)	6-4	253	3	Miami	16/4	D3 05	D3 BUFF 05	Talented athlete faces make-or-break season in third year.
87	Murphy, Matt (TE)	6-5	277	5	Maryland	2/0	FA 06	D7 DET 02	Faces crowded competition at tight end to win roster spot.
88	*Neufeld, Ryan (TE)	6-4	245	7	UCLA	9/0	FA 03	OFA DALL 99	Versatile vet aims to keep job as special-teams ace, H-back.
11	Parrish, Roscoe	5-9	171	3	Miami	16/1	D2 05	D2 BUFF 05	Game-breaking punt returner aims to do more as slot man.
81	**Price, Peerless**	**5-11**	**194**	**9**	**Tennessee**	**16/14**	**FA 06**	**D2 BUFF 99**	**Bills need him to prove he still has game-breaking ability.**
82	Reed, Josh	5-10	210	6	Louisiana State	13/2	D2 02	D2 BUFF 02	Four-wide set could be tough to stop with Reed, Parrish in slots.
84	**Royal, Robert (TE)**	**6-4**	**255**	**6**	**Louisiana State**	**16/15**	**UFA,WSH 06**	**D5 WSH 02**	**Spent tons of time blocking last year; can he increase catches?**
80	Schouman, Derek (TE/FB)	6-2	223	R	Boise State	0/0	D7 07	D7 BUFF 07	Pass-catching tight end that can fit into H-back role for Bills.
15	Wilson, George	6-0	212	2	Arkansas	0/0	FA 05	OFA DET 04	Has shown flashes in past preseasons and must do so again.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
60	Butler, Brad (T)	6-7	315	2	Virginia	2/0	D5 06	D5 BUFF 06	Smart lineman will push for starting right guard job.
73	Chambers, Kirk (T)	6-7	315	3	Stanford	0/0	FA 07	D6 CLV 04	Long-shot prospect, but Bills don't have depth at tackle.
66	**Dockery, Derrick (G)**	**6-6**	**330**	**5**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**UFA,WSH 07**	**D3 WSH 03**	**Bills expect road-grading blocker to dominate at left guard.**
67	**Fowler, Melvin (C)**	**6-3**	**310**	**6**	**Maryland**	**16/16**	**UFA,MINN 06**	**D3 CLV 02**	**Smart line-caller did OK against big bull-rushers last year.**
62	Merz, Aaron (C)	6-4	325	2	California	7/1	D7 06	D7 BUFF 06	Ability to play center or guard helps his bid for roster spot.
79	Pennington, Terrance (T)	6-7	331	2	New Mexico	11/9	D7 06	D7 BUFF 06	Big-framed prospect probably will be the No. 3 tackle.
71	**Peters, Jason (T)**	**6-4**	**340**	**4**	**Arkansas**	**16/16**	**FA 04**	**OFA BUFF 04**	**Left tackle is ready to emerge as a Pro Bowl contender.**
75	**Preston, Duke (G)**	**6-5**	**326**	**3**	**Illinois**	**16/8**	**D4 05**	**D4 BUFF 05**	**Slight favorite to edge Butler in race for starting left guard spot.**
68	**Walker, Langston (T)**	**6-8**	**366**	**6**	**California**	**16/16**	**UFA,OAK 07**	**D2 OAK 02**	**Bills counting on him to shine in new surroundings at right tackle.**
65	Whittle, Jason (C)	6-4	279	10	SW Missouri State	16/2	UFA,MINN 07	OFA NYG 98	Versatile veteran should add attitude as interior backup.
RUNNING BACKS									
23	**Lynch, Marshawn**	**5-11**	**215**	**R**	**California**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 BUFF 07**	**Tough runner with speed and hands brings excitement to attack.**
35	*Scobey, Josh (KR)	6-0	220	4	Kansas State	12/0	UFA,SEA 07	D6 ARIZ 02	Emphasis on special teams gives him good chance to make squad.
28	Thomas, Anthony	6-2	221	7	Michigan	16/2	UFA,NO 06	D2 CHI 01	Hard runner between the tackles brings experience.
36	Williams, Shaud	5-7	193	4	Alabama	5/0	OFA 04	OFA BUFF 04	Undersized role player aims to help on third-downs.
31	Wright, Dwayne	5-11	228	R	Fresno State	0/0	D4 07	D4 BUFF 07	Tough, north-south runner could complement Lynch well.
QUARTERBACKS									
5	Edwards, Trent	6-4	231	R	Stanford	0/0	D3 07	D3 BUFF 07	Durability was question in college, but he will make team.
7	**Losman, J.P.**	**6-2**	**212**	**4**	**Tulane**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 BUFF 04**	**If he takes another step forward, Bills' future looks bright.**
16	Nall, Craig	6-3	245	6	Northwestern State	0/0	UFA,GB 06	D5 GB 02	Needs to have strong, healthy preseason to establish his status.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
76	Ah You, C.J. (E)	6-4	275	R	Oklahoma	0/0	D7 07	D7 BUFF 07	Athlete who showed flashes of pass-rush ability for Sooners.
77	Anderson, Tim (T)	6-3	328	3	Ohio State	15/5	D3 04	D3 BUFF 04	Needs to play stout to win spot in tackle rotation.
92	Denney, Ryan (E)	6-7	264	5	Brigham Young	16/0	D2 02	D2 BUFF 02	Capable No. 3 end is stronger than people think vs. run.
93	Hargrove, Anthony (E)	6-3	271	4	Georgia Tech	14/2	T,STL 06	D3 STL 04	The time to blossom is now for high-energy rush end.
99	Jefferson, Jason (T)	6-1	295	2	Wisconsin	4/0	FA 05	D6 NO 05	Faces uphill battle to squeeze into the 53-man roster.
90	**Kelsay, Chris (E)**	**6-4**	**261**	**4**	**Nebraska**	**16/16**	**D2 03**	**D2 BUFF 03**	**With huge contract in pocket, can he take game to higher level?**
97	*McCargo, John (T)	6-2	307	R	North Carolina State	5/0	D1 06	D1 BUFF 06	Bills desperately need him to emerge as force in middle.
91	Powell, Eric (E)	6-3	284	2	Florida State	0/0	FA 06	OFA GB 03	Undersized rush end looking for breakout training camp.
94	**Schobel, Aaron (E)**	**6-4**	**243**	**6**	**Texas Christian**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 BUFF 01**	**Standout pass rusher coming off most consistent season.**
98	**Tripplett, Larry (T)**	**6-2**	**293**	**5**	**Washington**	**16/16**	**UFA,IND 06**	**D2 IND 02**	**Can he make more plays now that he's rotating with Walker?**
96	Walker, Darwin (T)	6-3	294	8	Tennessee	16/15	T,PHA 07	D3 ARIZ 00	Eagles discarded him, but Bills expect him to push pocket.
95	**Williams, Kyle (T)**	**6-1**	**306**	**R**	**Louisiana State**	**16/11**	**D5 06**	**D5 BUFF 06**	**Hard-driving overachiever will rotate at nose tackle spot.**
LINEBACKERS									
55	***Crowell, Angelo (O)**	**6-1**	**246**	**5**	**Virginia**	**12/12**	**D3 03**	**D3 BUFF 03**	**Solid pursuit 'backer facing bigger responsibility this year.**
52	DiGiorgio, John (M)	6-2	229	2	Saginaw Valley State	12/0	OFA 06	OFA BUFF 06	Ex-undrafted free agent has strong chance to be backup middle linebacker.
56	**Ellison, Keith (O)**	**6-0**	**229**	**2**	**Oregon State**	**14/7**	**D6 06**	**D6 BUFF 06**	**Can this smart, fleet 'backer hold up on weak side for a full year?**
53	Haggan, Mario (M)	6-3	263	5	Mississippi State	16/0	FA 03	D7 BUFF 03	Veteran special-teamer, who makes positive presence in locker room.
58	Manning, Roy (O)	6-2	245	3	Michigan	1/0	FA 06	OFA GB 05	Must make plays on special teams due to numbers battle outside.
51	**Posluszny, Paul (M)**	**6-1**	**238**	**R**	**Penn State**	**0/0**	**D2 07**	**D2 BUFF 07**	**Must adjust quickly to pro game and stop run in middle.**
57	*Stamer, Josh (O)	6-2	236	5	South Dakota	6/0	FA 03	OFA NYG 01	Good coverage man on special teams coming off major knee injury.
27	Wire, Coy (O)	6-0	220	6	Stanford	16/1	D3 02	D3 BUFF 02	Special-teams vet is more comfortable in box than as safety.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
33	Greer, Jabari (CB)	5-11	175	4	Tennessee	16/0	OFA 04	OFA BUFF 04	Undersized corner with good speed could nail down top three cornerback job.
42	Leonhard, Jim (S)	5-8	185	3	Wisconsin	15/1	OFA 05	OFA BUFF 05	Overachiever has ability to back up at either safety spot.
24	**McGee, Terrence (CB/KR)**	**5-9**	**198**	**5**	**Northwestern State**	**15/15**	**D4 03**	**D4 BUFF 03**	**Bills need him to step up his game now that Clements is gone.**
30	**Simpson, Ko (S)**	**6-1**	**202**	**2**	**South Carolina**	**16/15**	**D4 06**	**D4 BUFF 06**	**Rangy centerfielder didn't give up cheap deep balls last year.**
25	Thomas, Kiwaukee (CB)	5-11	188	8	Georgia Southern	16/2	UFA,MIA 06	D5 JAX 00	Savvy veteran is favorite to win third-corner gig again.
29	Wendling, John (S)	6-1	222	R	Wyoming	0/0	D6 07	D6 BUFF 07	Another good athlete who should be force on special teams.
20	**Whitner, Donte' (S)**	**5-10**	**208**	**2**	**Ohio State**	**15/14**	**D1 06**	**D1 BUFF 06**	**After good rookie year, more big plays needed out of him.**
26	**Youboty, Ashton (CB)**	**5-11**	**189**	**2**	**Ohio State**	**3/1**	**D3 06**	**D3 BUFF 06**	**If he doesn't catch on quickly, pass defense may be in trouble.**
SPECIALISTS									
9	Lindell, Rian (K)	6-3	233	8	Washington State	16/0	RFA,SEA 03	OFA DALL 00	Experience in Buffalo helps him deal with ill winds.
8	Moorman, Brian (P)	6-0	172	7	Pittsburg State	16/0	FA 01	OFA SEA 99	Pro Bowl punter flirted with 40-yard net average last year.
54	Schneck, Mike (LS)	6-1	233	9	Wisconsin	16/0	FA 05	OFA PITT 99	One of the steadiest long snappers in the league.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; FA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Aaron Brown (New Hampshire), Jemalle Cornelius (Florida), Chris Denney (1, Nebraska-Omaha), Scott Mayle (Ohio University), Daunta Peterson (Dubuque), Johnny Quinn (North Texas); OTs Randy Hand (1, Florida), Walter Stith (1, North Carolina A&T); OGs Corey Davis (James Madison), Zac Tubbs (Arkansas); C Christian Gaddis (Villanova); RB Fred Jackson (1, Coe); QB Kevin Eakin (1, Fordham); DE Ryan Neill (1, Rutgers); DTs LaRon Harris (Northwestern Oklahoma State), Corey Mace (Wyoming); LBs Kevin Harrison (1, Eastern Michigan), Thaddaeus Washington (Colorado); CBs Eric Bassey (1, Oklahoma), Duane Coleman (Clemson), Reggie Lewis (Florida); Ss Trevor Hooper (Stanford), Stacey Thomas (Texas Southern); P Chris Jackson (Louisiana State)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*The making of a diversified offense. The Bills should throw more passes to the tight end and running back this year, which should help move the chains. This presumes the line is improved enough so they don't have to max-protect to keep J.P. Losman from getting killed.

*Buckle up the chinstraps. The Bills' defense better be ready to hunker down and face smash-mouth game plans. Opposing offenses will pound the rock against a new linebacking corps until the Bills prove they can stop the run.

*What looks to be a very difficult start. The Bills better be ready to play tough early. Their first eight games are murder. A 4-4 record at midseason would be very good for this team.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Derrick Dockery

He is far from a household name in Washington, much less Buffalo or the rest of the NFL.

That, however, did not stop the Buffalo Bills from making guard Derrick Dockery the highest paid player in franchise history in March.

Dockery, 26, is the big piece of the offensive puzzle the Bills think will finally make their attack a potent one. The Bills lured him away from the Redskins in free agency with a seven-year, $49 million deal that will pay him $23 million over the first three years.

He is the road-grading blocker the Bills have lacked on the interior of their line. All eyes will be on him as the Bills try to improve on their ranking of 27th in rushing yards.

"He has terrific size and athleticism at the left guard position," coach Dick Jauron said. "Every play he plays hard and plays with technique. He's a big man with long arms in pass protection. He has ability in the run game also. He'll be a force on the left side next to Jason Peters."

"The Buffalo Bills have always been one of my favorite teams growing up, especially during the Super Bowl run," Dockery said. "So I'm really excited about this."

a difference. John McCargo, a No. 1 pick a year ago, missed almost all of last year with a foot injury. They need him to hold up at the point of attack and get into the backfield at times. He will rotate at nose tackle with Kyle Williams and Tim Anderson. At the other tackle spot, Darwin Walker was acquired from Philadelphia, and he will rotate with Larry Tripplett, who had just 2.5 sacks last year.

RATING: 7

LINEBACKERS

Despite the loss of Fletcher and Spikes, the Bills might be OK at linebacker if they can stay healthy. Angelo Crowell is a good strong-side backer who can pursue sideline to sideline. Penn State's Paul Posluszny is being counted upon to take over for Fletcher in the middle. Posluszny is big and mobile. The only question is how fast he can catch on. He should be very good when he settles in.

On the weak side is Keith Ellison, a sixth-round pick in '06 who was the surprise rookie last season. He's smallish, but very smart and fast. We'll see how he holds up over a full season. Coy Wire transitions back to his natural position from safety to linebacker this season. He's a special teams ace, along with Mario Haggan and Josh Stamer. John DiGiorgio is No. 2 in the middle.

RATING: 6.5

SECONDARY

Clements was the best athlete on the team and leaves a huge hole. The Bills wanted to draft a corner in the third or fourth round, but none were there that they loved. Terrence McGee is solid at one corner. The other is a tossup among Ashton Youboty, Kiwaukee Thomas and Jabari Greer. Ideally, Youboty, a third-round pick in '06, steps up and fills the job. Thomas is a solid No. 3. The safety tandem of Donte Whitner and Ko Simpson is a strength. Both should be ready to make more big plays in their second year. Jim Leonhard and rookie John Wendling will back up at safety.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Bills weren't the best special teams in the league last year, but they were in the top five. Punter Brian Moorman is a Pro Bowler who is a master of the Buffalo winds. Kicker Rian Lindell had another solid year. The coverage units are outstanding. McGee and Parrish are among the league's best on kickoff and punt returns, respectively. Mike Schneck is an ace long snapper.

RATING: 9

INTANGIBLES

The Bills finally have some continuity at coach, quarterback and the two coordinator positions. Being in the same system a second year will help everyone.

RATING: Plus 1

— Mark Gaughan

2006 RESULTS

Record: 7-9

Sep. 10	at New England	17-19
Sep. 17	at Miami	16- 6
Sep. 24	N.Y. JETS	20-28
Oct. 1	MINNESOTA	17-12
Oct. 8	at Chicago	7-40
Oct. 15	at Detroit	17-20
Oct. 22	NEW ENGLAND	6-28
Oct. 29	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 5	GREEN BAY	24-10
Nov. 12	at Indianapolis	16-17
Nov. 19	at Houston	24-21
Nov. 26	JACKSONVILLE	27-24
Dec. 3	SAN DIEGO	21-24
Dec. 10	at N.Y. Jets	31-13
Dec. 17	MIAMI	21- 0
Dec. 24	TENNESSEE	29-30
Dec. 31	at Baltimore	7-19

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 10	at New Orleans (Fri.)	8:00
Aug. 17	ATLANTA (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 24	TENNESSEE (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 30	at Detroit (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	DENVER	1:00
Sep. 16	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Sep. 23	at New England	1:00
Sep. 30	N.Y. JETS	1:00
Oct. 8	DALLAS (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	BALTIMORE	1:00
Oct. 28	at N.Y. Jets	4:05
Nov. 4	CINCINNATI	1:00
Nov. 11	at Miami	1:00
Nov. 18	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Nov. 25	at Jacksonville	1:00
Dec. 2	at Washington	1:00
Dec. 9	MIAMI	1:00
Dec. 16	at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 23	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
Dec. 30	at Philadelphia	1:00

MIAMI DOLPHINS

2006 RECORD: 6-10 | STADIUM: Dolphins Stadium, 75,192, Grass PAT | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

AFC EAST | www.miamidolphins.com

AT A GLANCE

7500 SW 30th Street
Davie, FL 33314
(954) 452-7000

TRAINING CAMP:
Dolphins Complex; Davie, FL

COACH:
Cam Cameron, 1st year with Dolphins and as NFL head coach

GENERAL MANAGER:
Randy Mueller

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
George Paton

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Ron Labadie

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Terry Shea	Quarterbacks	7	1
Hudson Houck	Offensive line	26	3
Tim Davis	Offensive line assistant	3	3
Terry Robiskie	Receivers	26	1
Bobby Jackson	Running backs	21	1
Mike Mularkey	Tight ends	14	2
Marvin Marshall	Offensive quality control	3	1
Dom Capers	Defensive coordinator	21	2
Travis Jones	Defensive line (ends)	3	3
Diron Reynolds	Defensive line (tackles)	6	1
George Edwards	Linebackers	10	3
Glenn Pires	Assistant linebackers	12	5
Mel Phillips	Secondary (cornerbacks)	28	23
Brett Maxie	Secondary (safeties)	11	1
Mike Dumas	Secondary coaches' asst.	1	1
Chad Walker	Defensive quality control	1	1
Keith Armstrong	Special teams	14	7
Steve Hoffman	Special teams assistant	18	1
Matt Schiotz	Strength & Conditioning	9	1
Brad Ohrt	Strength & Conditioning	1	1

*Assistant head coach

New Faces Marks Arrival of Cam Cameron

With two top-10 picks in three years, Miami's status as one of the NFL's great franchises is more based on past accomplishments than anything the club has accomplished in five consecutive seasons without a playoff berth.

To break that drought, the regime of new head coach Cam Cameron and general manager Randy Mueller greatly revamped Miami's roster in the off-season. The bulk of the changes came on offense, which is Cameron's specialty. The Dolphins are expected to field new starters at quarterback, fullback, tight end and at least three spots along the offensive line.

Such a drastic overhaul makes Miami unlikely to reach the playoffs this season despite adding standout linebacker Joey Porter to a defense that ranked fourth in the NFL last season. But there should be improvement from last year's 6-10 campaign as the seeds are planted for a more likely post-season run in 2008.

COACHING

While considered one of the NFL's top offensive coordinators the past five seasons in San Diego, Cameron was 18-37 while head coach at Indiana University from 1997 to 2001. Cameron will call the team's plays, but may be spreading himself thin by not hiring an offensive coordinator to help with game planning. Cameron said he will lean heavily on a group of assistants that include offensive line guru Hudson Houck and four former coordinators, including the demoted Mike Mularkey (tight ends). Dom Capers became the NFL's highest-paid assistant coach after signing a three-year, $8.1 million extension during the off-season. Capers said he plans to keep the same hybrid 3-4/4-3 scheme the team ran in two seasons under Nick Saban.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

The position remained unsettled immediately after the draft, although Trent Green was still expected to ultimately arrive after being either released or traded by Kansas City. Although he will be 37 years old coming off a concussion-plagued 2006 season, having a quarterback with experience in Cameron's system like Green should help accelerate the offense's learning curve. Green also will be trying to prove that he still has the skills that made him one of the AFC's most productive quarterbacks in Kansas City from 2001 to 2005. Daunte Culpepper, who missed the final 12 games last year because of knee problems that were still lingering well into this off-season, is a likely goner with Cameron expected to go in a different direction at the position. Cleo Lemon seems ready to ascend into a backup role, but Miami's quarterback of the future is 2007 second-round draft pick John Beck.

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
LB Joey Porter

Porter believes he can return to the Pro Bowl and so do the Dolphins, who believe Porter will serve as an excellent pass-rushing complement for reigning NFL Defensive Player of the Year Jason Taylor in the team's 3-4 defense.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
K Jay Feely, WR Az-Zahir Hakim, OL Chris Liwienski, TE David Martin, T Mike Rosenthal, FB Cory Schlesinger, S Cameron Worrell

KEY LOSS:
T Damion McIntosh (13/13)*
McIntosh wasn't a fan favorite, but the Dolphins may struggle to replace him with converted right tackle Vernon Carey. A starter for most of the past three seasons, McIntosh signed as a free agent with Kansas City.

OTHER LOSSES
LB Keith Adams (15/0), G Bennie Anderson (2/2), FB Darian Barnes (16/6), DE David Bowens (16/0), DE Kevin Carter (16/16), G Toniu Fonoti (6/0), QB Joey Harrington (11/11), CB Eddie Jackson (14/2), G Kendyl Jacox (16/8), G Jeno James (9/9), P Donnie Jones (16/0), K Olindo Mare (16/0), QB Shane Matthews (0/0), C Seth McKinney (0/0), TE Randy McMichael (16/16), RB Travis Minor (16/0), RB Sammy Morris (12/4), WR/KR Wes Welker (16/2), DT Jeff Zgonina (14/2)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
16; 6 offense, 10 defense
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

The Dolphins felt so strongly about Beck — the second-leading passer in Brigham Young history — that they passed on selecting Notre Dame's Brady Quinn with the draft's No. 9 pick.

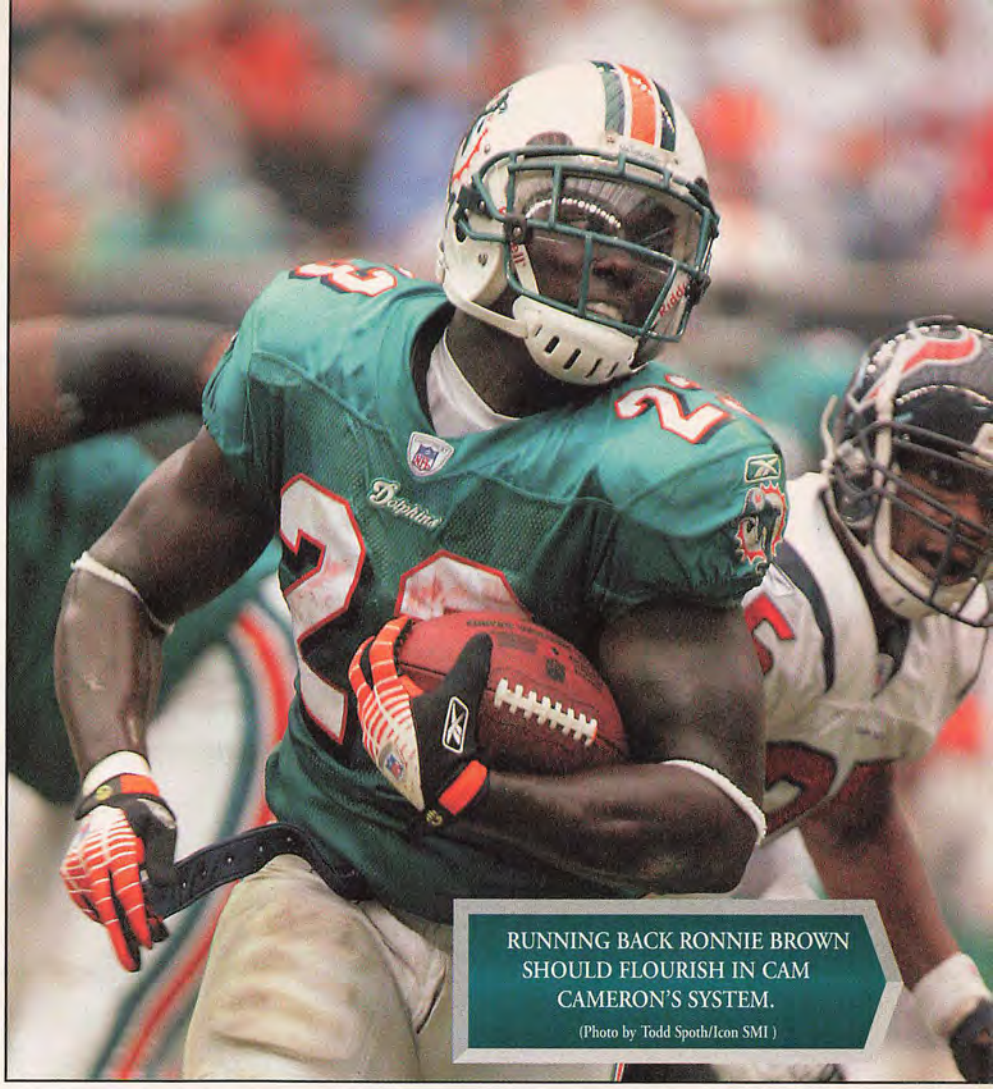
RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

Ronnie Brown is coming off his first 1,000-yard rushing season, but he still hasn't fulfilled the lofty expectations that came with being the No. 2 overall pick in the 2005 draft. Brown also reported to the team's first minicamp over his target weight, which may have been a contributing factor in Cameron firing position coach Bobby Williams shortly thereafter. Still, Brown may flourish in a system that helped San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson set an NFL single-season scoring record in 2006. Brown also should benefit from the expected return of Ricky Williams from a one-year drug suspension. When paired together in 2005, Brown and Williams combined for 1,650 yards and 10 touchdowns.

But because Williams is one failed or missed drug test away from another lengthy suspension, the Dolphins covered themselves by selecting Florida State's Lorenzo Booker in the third round. The Dolphins are hoping Booker can serve as a third-down back and cause mismatches against opposing linebackers because of his speed. Cory Schlesinger was signed away from Detroit in free agency as the new starting fullback, but the 14-year NFL veteran could face a challenge for a roster spot from sixth-round pick Reagan Mauia of Hawaii.

RATING: 7



RUNNING BACK RONNIE BROWN SHOULD FLOURISH IN CAM CAMERON'S SYSTEM.
(Photo by Todd Spoth/Icon SMI)

RECEIVERS

Two of Miami's four leading receivers from last season are gone, with Wes Welker traded to New England and Randy McMichael released after the franchise signed Green Bay's David Martin as his replacement. Martin is well renowned for his pass-catching prowess — which is a skill that Cameron covets in his tight ends — but he has missed 16 games because of injuries the past three seasons. Justin Peelle, who played under Cameron in San Diego before joining the Dolphins, is Martin's backup. Wide receiver Chris Chambers was one of the NFL's biggest disappointments last season as he failed to come close to matching the numbers posted in his Pro Bowl campaign of 2005. Chambers will be used more creatively in 2007, including new responsibilities as a slot receiver. Marty Booker is expected to start opposite Chambers, but he is just keeping the seat warm until first-round draft choice Ted Ginn Jr. is ready to play. Ginn, though, is regarded as a raw prospect at receiver who may need some time to develop.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Dolphins are hoping that Vernon Carey can stop the revolving door of left tackles that has spun since Richmond Webb's departure following the 2000 season. Carey is being shifted from right tackle, which is where L.J. Shelton is now starting after settling in last season at right guard. The guard positions are both in flux, with rookie Samson Satele, veteran Chris Liwienski and 2006 fourth-round draft choice Joe Toledo the leading candidates to start. The only settled position is center with Rex Hadnot, who could cash in elsewhere as an unrestricted free agent in 2008 if not signed to a contract extension.

RATING: 6

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

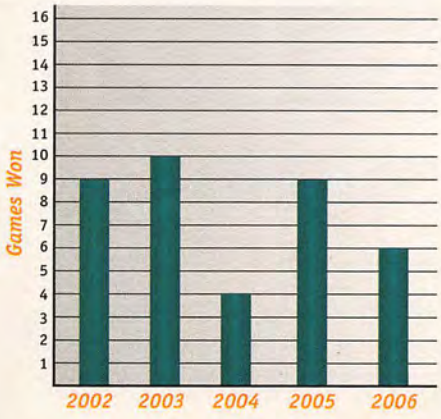
This was considered the strength of Miami's defense in 2006, with Jason Taylor earning Defensive Player of the Year honors after a season in which he generated more turnovers (14) than sacks (13.5). Defensive tackle Vonnie Holliday scored a lucrative four-year contract extension after a seven-sack campaign. Matt Roth appears ready to replace the departed Kevin Carter at defensive end, but nose tackle could be problematic with projected starter Keith Traylor set to turn 38 entering the season. Depth also is a concern across the line, although the team has some promising young linemen in Fred Evans, Rodrique Wright and 2007 fourth-round pick Paul Soliai.

RATING: 7.5

LINEBACKERS

If he can rebound from a disappointing 2006 season, the addition of Joey Porter as a standout pass rushing outside linebacker should make Taylor even more effective. Middle linebacker Zach Thomas is coming off his seventh career Pro Bowl

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: None*

Dolphins Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
86	**Booker, Marty**	**6-0**	**210**	**9**	**Northeast Louisiana**	**14/13**	**T,CHI 04**	**D3 CHI 99**	**Steady three-year starter was placed on trading block before the draft.**
80	Campbell, Kelly	5-9	175	4	Georgia Tech	0/0	FA 07	OFA MINN 02	Trying to work way back on NFL roster after two injury-plagued seasons.
84	**Chambers, Chris**	**5-11**	**210**	**7**	**Wisconsin**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 MIA 01**	**In 2006, failed to follow up on Pro Bowl campaign from the previous year.**
11	Ginn, Ted	5-11	178	R	Ohio State	0/0	D1 07	D1 MIA 07	Speedy 2007 first-round pick should make immediate impact on returns.
82	Hagan, Derek	6-2	203	2	Arizona State	16/0	D3 06	D3 MIA 06	2006 third-round draft choice dropped too many passes as a rookie.
81	Hakim, Az-Zahir	5-10	190	10	San Diego State	6/0	UFA,SD 07	D4 STL 98	With Wes Welker gone, could contend for slot receiver, returner duties.
88	**Martin, David (TE)**	**6-4**	**265**	**7**	**Tennessee**	**11/4**	**UFA,GB 07**	**D6 GB 01**	**Signed to replace Randy McMichael because of his pass-catching prowess.**
89	Massaquoi, Tim (TE)	6-3	255	2	Michigan	7/0	FA 06	D7 TB 06	Rookie saw action as a third-stringer after being claimed off waivers (Bucs).
87	Peelle, Justin (TE)	6-4	255	6	Oregon	15/10	UFA,SD 06	D4 SD 02	Backup familiar with Cam Cameron's scheme from when both were with Chargers.
85	Rader, Jason (TE)	6-4	260	2	Marshall	6/1	FA 07	OFA ATL 04	Bounced between 53-man roster, practice squad the past two seasons.
14	Sam, P.K.	6-3	210	2	Florida State	0/0	FA 07	D5 NE 04	A 2004 fifth-round pick (Patriots) who played in NFL Europa this off-season.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
79	Alabi, Anthony (T)	6-5	315	3	Texas Christian	6/0	D5 05	D5 MIA 05	2005 fifth-round pick projected as backup left tackle behind Vernon Carey.
72	**Carey, Vernon (T)**	**6-5**	**335**	**4**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 MIA 04**	**Two-year starter at right tackle is being shifted to fill left tackle void.**
66	**Hadnot, Rex (C)**	**6-2**	**325**	**4**	**Houston**	**16/16**	**D6 04**	**D6 MIA 04**	**Steady two-year starter at center could become coveted free agent in 2008.**
68	Ingram, Johnathan (C)	6-2	290	2	San Diego State	0/0	FA 07	OFA KC 03	Depth signing has bounced on and off Kansas City's roster since 2004.
76	**Liwienski, Chris (G)**	**6-5**	**325**	**9**	**Indiana**	**16/6**	**UFA,ARIZ 07**	**D7 DET 98**	**Versatile veteran with 80 career starts may become first-team right guard.**
77	Mormino, Drew (C/G)	6-3	299	R	Central Michigan	0/0	D6 07	D6 MIA 07	Feisty player caught Miami's eye when scouting college teammate Joe Staley.
78	Rosenthal, Mike (T)	6-7	318	9	Notre Dame	15/3	FA 07	D5 NYG 99	58-game starter with Giants, Vikings; a potential backup at right tackle.
64	**Satele, Samson (G/C)**	**6-3**	**300**	**R**	**Hawaii**	**0/0**	**D2 07**	**D2 MIA 07**	**Will add much-needed aggressiveness, athleticism to Miami's offensive line.**
70	**Shelton, L.J. (T)**	**6-6**	**345**	**9**	**Eastern Michigan**	**16/16**	**UFA,CLV 06**	**D1 ARIZ 99**	**Moving to right tackle after playing left tackle, right guard in 2006.**
73	Stevenson, Dan (G)	6-5	300	1	Notre Dame	0/0	FA 06	D6 NE 06	Late-season signing from New England spent time on practice squad in 2006.
67	*Toledo, Joe (T)	6-5	325	2	Washington	0/0	D4 06	D4 MIA 06	Competing to start at right guard after missing entire rookie year (knee).
RUNNING BACKS									
20	Booker, Lorenzo	5-10	191	R	Florida State	0/0	D3 07	D3 MIA 07	Projected as Miami's third-down back because of speed, pass-catching skill.
23	**Brown, Ronnie**	**6-0**	**232**	**3**	**Auburn**	**13/12**	**D1 05**	**D1 MIA 05**	**Has talent to flourish in Cam Cameron's scheme *a la* LaDainian Tomlinson.**
28	Chatman, Jesse	5-8	223	5	Eastern Washington	0/0	FA 07	OFA SD 02	Lost 40 pounds trying to resurrect NFL career after not playing in 2006.
38	Cobbs, Patrick	5-8	210	1	North Texas	3/0	FA 06	OFA NE 06	Sun Belt Conference career rushing leader saw special teams action in 2006.
45	Mauia, Reagan (FB)	6-0	270	R	Hawaii	0/0	D6 07	D6 MIA 07	A converted defensive lineman; lost 100 pounds during college career.
30	**Schlesinger, Cory (FB)**	**6-1**	**246**	**13**	**Nebraska**	**14/5**	**UFA,DET 07**	**D6 DET 95**	**Hard-nosed run blocker was signed away from Detroit after 13 seasons.**
34	*Williams, Ricky	5-10	226	7	Texas	0/0	T,NO 02	D1 NO 99	Results of spring drug test may weed him out.
QUARTERBACKS									
9	Beck, John	6-2	216	R	Brigham Young	0/0	D2 07	D2 MIA 07	Dolphins loved his accuracy, leadership at BYU; potential starter in 2008.
8	***Culpepper, Daunte**	**6-4**	**265**	**9**	**Central Florida**	**4/4**	**T,MINN 06**	**D1 MINN 99**	**Not the same impact player since suffering major knee injury in 2004.**
17	Lemon, Cleo	6-2	215	4	Arkansas State	4/1	T,SD 05	OFA BLT 02	Showed enough when starting 2006 season finale to land backup role in 2007.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
62	Evans, Fred (NT)	6-4	305	2	Texas State-San Marcos	1/0	D7 06	D7 MIA 06	Small-school player ready for increased snaps as Keith Traylor's backup.
91	**Holliday, Vonnie (T)**	**6-5**	**288**	**10**	**North Carolina**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D1 GB 98**	**Earned a four-year contract extension after seven-sack, 66-tackle season.**
95	Page, Chase (T)	6-4	295	1	North Carolina	0/0	FA 06	D7 SD 06	2006 seventh-round pick was on Chargers' practice squad most of last year.
98	**Roth, Matt (E)**	**6-4**	**272**	**3**	**Iowa**	**16/0**	**D2 MIA 05**	**D2 MIA 05**	**Being elevated to the starting lineup to replace Kevin Carter (Bucs).**
96	Soliai, Paul (T)	6-4	344	R	Utah	0/0	D4 07	D4 MIA 07	Big-bodied nose tackle had a second-round grade on Miami's draft board.
99	**Taylor, Jason (E)**	**6-6**	**255**	**11**	**Akron**	**16/16**	**D3 97**	**D3 MIA 97**	**Reigning NFL Defensive Player of the Year is flourishing in elephant role.**
94	***Traylor, Keith (T)**	**6-2**	**340**	**15**	**Central State (OK)**	**14/14**	**FA 05**	**D3 DEN 91**	**Still a quality run-stuffer despite advanced age, chronic knee problems.**
92	Vickerson, Kevin (T)	6-5	305	3	Michigan State	0/0	FA 07	D7 MIA 05	Showed promise in past two preseasons; spent off-season in NFL Europa.
	Wilkinson, Dan (T)	6-4	340	14	Ohio State	10/0	FA 06	D1 CIN 94	Trade to Denver voided earlier in off-season; team expects him to retire.
90	*Wright, Rodrique (NT)	6-5	300	1	Texas	0/0	D7 06	D7 MIA 06	Likely backup behind Holliday after missing entire rookie year (shoulder).
LINEBACKERS									
52	**Crowder, Channing (O)**	**6-2**	**245**	**3**	**Florida**	**16/14**	**D3 05**	**D3 MIA 05**	**Miami's second-leading tackler in 2006, but needs improvement in coverage.**
93	Gbaja-Biamila, Akbar (O)	6-5	263	3	San Diego State	3/0	FA 07	OFA OAK 03	Never reached the same heights as brother Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila (Packers).
57	Maxwell, Jim (O)	6-4	240	4	Gardner Webb	8/0	FA 06	OFA NYG 04	Core special teams player in 2006; also has spent time with Giants, 49ers.
51	McCune, Robert (M)	6-0	240	2	Louisville	0/0	FA 06	D5 WSH 05	Spent most of the previous two seasons on Washington's practice squad.
56	Pope, Derrick (O)	6-0	232	4	Alabama	11/0	D7 04	D7 MIA 04	Settled into special teams role after starting five games in 2004 and 2005.
55	**Porter, Joey (O)**	**6-3**	**250**	**9**	**Colorado State**	**14/14**	**FA 07**	**D3 PITT 99**	**The pass-rushing outside linebacker Miami was sorely lacking in its 3-4.**
58	Smith, Kelvin (M)	6-2	233	R	Syracuse	0/	D7 07	D7 MIA 07	Best chance to make team will come by being an impact special teams player.
59	Spragan, Donnie (O)	6-3	242	7	Stanford	16/9	UFA,DEN 05	OFA NO 99	Re-signed as a backup behind Porter after starting the past two seasons.
54	**Thomas, Zach (M)**	**5-11**	**228**	**12**	**Texas Tech**	**16/16**	**D5 96**	**D5 MIA 96**	**Never recorded less than 100 tackles in 11 NFL seasons; had 165 in 2006.**
53	Wright, Abraham (O)	6-3	245	R	Colorado	0/0	D7 07	D7 MIA 07	College end who is being converted to pass-rushing outside linebacker.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
32	Allen, Jason (CB)	6-1	213	2	Tennessee	16/0	D1 06	D1 MIA 06	Being switched from safety to cornerback after disastrous rookie campaign.
25	**Allen, Will (CB)**	**5-10**	**196**	**7**	**Syracuse**	**15/15**	**UFA,NYG 06**	**D1 NYG 01**	**Solid starter, but only two interceptions the past three seasons combined.**
37	**Bell, Yeremiah (S)**	**6-0**	**200**	**4**	**Eastern Kentucky**	**16/11**	**FA 04**	**D6 MIA 03**	**Led Miami's secondary last season in sacks (two), forced fumbles (two).**
29	Daniels, Travis (CB)	6-1	192	3	Louisiana State	12/6	D4 05	D4 MIA 05	Struggled with an ankle injury all last season after promising rookie year.
21	***Goodman, Andre' (CB)**	**5-10**	**185**	**6**	**South Carolina**	**15/14**	**UFA,DET 06**	**D3 DET 02**	**Projected nickel back, instead started 14 games in 2006 in place of Daniels.**
24	**Hill, Renaldo (S)**	**5-11**	**190**	**7**	**Michigan State**	**16/16**	**UFA,OAK 06**	**D7 ARIZ 01**	**The secondary's most consistent player with 83-tackle effort in 2006.**
22	Lehan, Mike (CB)	6-0	190	4	Minnesota	15/2	FA 06	D5 CLV 03	Core special teams player who can be used as a dime cornerback in a pinch.
27	Mitchell, Shirdonya (CB)	5-11	183	1	Missouri	1/0	FA 06	OFA MIA 05	Projected as a mid-round draft choice in 2005 before pre-draft ACL tear.
26	Tillman, Travares (S)	6-1	205	7	Georgia Tech	14/7	UFA,CARO 05	D2 BUFF 00	Lost starting spot midway through 2006, but re-signed in the off-season.
44	Worrell, Cameron	5-11	194	4	Fresno State	16/0	UFA,CHI 07	OFA CHI 03	Special teams demon who tied for team tackle lead (28) with Bears in 2006.
SPECIALISTS									
97	Denney, John (LS)	6-5	270	3	Brigham Young	16/0	OFA 05	OFA MIA 05	Model of consistency since getting off to a rough start as rookie in 2005.
3	Feely, Jay (K)	5-10	210	7	Michigan	16/0	UFA,NYG 07	OFA ATL 01	Posted a career-best 85.2 field-goal percentage with the Giants last year.
4	Fields, Brandon (P)	6-5	236	R	Michigan State	0/0	D7 07	D7 MIA 07	Rookie will receive tutoring from Miami kicking coach Steve Hoffman.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Gabe Hatchett (Southern Oregon), Kerry Reed (Michigan State), David Sutton (Texas-El Paso); TE Aaron Halterman (1, Indiana); OTs Marion Dukes (Clemson), Julius Wilson (UAB); OGs Tala Esera (Hawaii), Stephen Parker (Arkansas); RB Ray Perkins (1, Southeast Louisiana); FB Kyle Eckel (1, Navy); QB Gibran Hamdan (1, Indiana); DE Mkristo Bruce (Washington State); DTs Steve Fifita (1, Utah), Marquay Love (Houston); LB Ed Miles (Iowa); CBs Tuff Harris (Montana), Geoffrey Pope (Howard); Ss Courtney Bryan (New Mexico State), Chris Vedder (San Jose State); PK Matt Prater (1, Central Florida); P Ryan Flinn (1, Central Florida)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Growing pains. With so much turnover on offense, this unit will probably struggle early in the season. The absence of projected starter Trent Green for the first part of Miami's off-season program also could slow the building of offensive cohesion as players learn Cam Cameron's playbook.

*Jet lag. As part of the NFL's new initiative scheduling overseas regular-season contests, the Dolphins' October 28 home game against the New York Giants was moved to London. Miami does have a bye the following week and has home games sandwiched around the Giants' matchup.

*Young blood. All 10 of Miami's 2007 draft picks and potentially some college free agents have a legitimate shot at making a roster gutted by general manager Randy Mueller in the off-season. The Dolphins desperately need the depth because of poor drafts throughout the decade.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Cam Cameron

After having three previous head coaches with defensive backgrounds (Jimmy Johnson, Dave Wannstedt and Nick Saban) that failed to get Miami into an AFC Championship Game, Dolphins owner H. Wayne Huizenga went in a radically different direction by choosing Cameron from a pool of nine candidates interviewed in January.

The NFL's only head coach without an offensive coordinator, Cameron will be calling Miami's plays from the sideline while trying to better a unit that ranked 29th in the league last season in scoring at 16.3 points a game. San Diego led the NFL in that category last season under Cameron's watch by showcasing such standout talent as running back LaDainian Tomlinson, tight end Antonio Gates and quarterback Philip Rivers.

While admittedly calling his offense a "work in progress" at the team's April minicamp, Cameron might not enjoy a lengthy grace period from Dolphins fans after the franchise selected Ohio State wide receiver Ted Ginn Jr. rather than Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn with the draft's No. 9 pick. Whether Ginn and Brigham Young quarterback John Beck (second round) prove a better value than Quinn will go a long way toward determining whether Cameron can turn Miami around.

berth and didn't miss a start for the first time since 2002. But at 34, Thomas may be entering his final season with the Dolphins. Channing Crowder is steady at outside linebacker but may ultimately become Thomas' replacement inside. Depth was bolstered when the franchise re-signed starter Donnie Spragan in April.

GRADE: 8.5

SECONDARY

After a poor start, a Dolphins secondary that opened with four new starters from the previous year began to gel at midseason when strong safety Yeremiah Bell was inserted into the starting lineup in place of Travares Tillman. Bell is effective on blitzes and has a penchant for making big plays. Free safety Renaldo Hill finished third on the team in tackles (83). But the fact he also tied for the lead in interceptions with two, shows just how poorly Miami did last season in forcing turnovers. The Dolphins had eight interceptions overall, with just five coming from members of the secondary. The Dolphins still don't have a shutdown cornerback among the trio of Will Allen, Andre' Goodman and Travis Daniels, although the latter should be improved this season after struggling throughout 2006 with an ankle injury. Vying for playing time will be 2006 first-round pick Jason Allen, who is being shifted from safety to cornerback after a poor rookie campaign.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

The only specialist returning to the Dolphins in 2007 is long snapper John Denney, as the Dolphins cut ties with long-time kicker Olindo Mare (New Orleans) and punter Donnie Jones (St. Louis). Replacement kicker Jay Feely had a field-goal percentage of 85.2 with the New York Giants in 2006 compared to Mare's career-low mark of 72.2. But Mare's production was much better on kickoffs, which will put increased pressure on Miami's coverage teams. Jones led the NFL in net punting in 2005, but slipped to 29th in that category last season.

While Welker did a nice job handling punts and kickoffs, the Dolphins have only scored on two returns this decade. In comparison, Ginn scored on nine returns during his three seasons at Ohio State.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

The quarterback position remains a problematic area entering this season, as Culpepper has failed to pan out like team officials had hoped when acquiring him from Minnesota last season for a second-round draft choice. If the franchise is out of playoff contention late in 2007, don't be surprised if Beck begins receiving snaps ahead of the other quarterbacks.

RATING: Minus 1

— Alex Marvez

2006 RESULTS

Record: 6-10

Sep. 7	at Pittsburgh	17-28
Sep. 17	BUFFALO	6-16
Sep. 24	TENNESSEE	13-10
Oct. 1	at Houston	15-17
Oct. 8	at New England	10-20
Oct. 15	at N.Y. Jets	17-20
Oct. 22	GREEN BAY	24-34
Oct. 29	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 5	at Chicago	31-13
Nov. 12	KANSAS CITY	13-10
Nov. 19	MINNESOTA	24-20
Nov. 23	at Detroit	27-10
Dec. 3	JACKSONVILLE	10-24
Dec. 10	NEW ENGLAND	21- 0
Dec. 17	at Buffalo	0-21
Dec. 25	N.Y. JETS	10-13
Dec. 31	at Indianapolis	22-27

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	JACKSONVILLE (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 16	at Kansas City (Thu.	7:00
Aug. 25	TAMPA BAY (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 30	at New Orleans (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	at Washington	1:00
Sep. 16	DALLAS	4:05
Sep. 23	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Sep. 30	OAKLAND	1:00
Oct. 7	at Houston	12:00
Oct. 14	at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 21	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Oct. 28	N.Y. GIANTS (London)	5:00
Nov. 4	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 11	BUFFALO	1:00
Nov. 18	at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov. 26	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	8:30
Dec. 2	N.Y. JETS	1:00
Dec. 9	at Buffalo	1:00
Dec. 16	BALTIMORE	1:00
Dec. 23	at New England	1:00
Dec. 30	CINCINNATI	1:00

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

2006 RECORD: 14-5 | STADIUM: Gillette Stadium, 68,756, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

AFC EAST | www.patriots.com

AT A GLANCE

Gillette Stadium
One Patriot Place
Foxborough, MA 02035
(508) 543-8200

TRAINING CAMP:
Gillette Stadium; Foxborough, MA

COACH:
Bill Belichick, 8th year with Patriots (87-39), 13th year as NFL head coach (124-84)

VICE PRESIDENT PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Scott Pioli

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Thomas Dimitroff

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Josh McDaniels	Offensive coordinator/QBs	7	7
Dante Scarnecchia	*Offensive line	26	24
Ivan Fears	Running backs	17	11
Nick Caserio	Receivers	3	3
Pete Mangurian	Tight ends	16	3
Bill O'Brien	Offensive assistant	1	1
Dean Pees	Defensive coordinator	4	4
Pepper Johnson	Defensive line	8	8
Matt Patricia	Linebackers	4	4
Joel Collier	Secondary	17	5
Josh Boyer	Defensive assistant	2	2
Brad Seely	Special teams	19	9
Mike Woicik	Strength & Conditioning	18	8
Harold Nash	Strength & Conditioning	3	3

*Assistant head coach

Loss to Colts Brings Aggressiveness to Off-season

This is a much-improved Patriots team from the one that blew an 18-point, second-quarter lead in the AFC Championship Game at Indianapolis.

The receiving corps, which lacked a deep threat last year, has added big-play wideouts Randy Moss and Donte' Stallworth, along with sure-handed possession receiver Wes Welker. They'll give two-time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady more places to go with the football than he's ever had — an exciting prospect for Patriots fans, but a terrifying one for every other team in the league.

Not that the Patriots are likely to need to pile up points in order to win. Not now that they've added one of the most sought-after free agents on the market in linebacker Adalius Thomas. He'll bring even more versatility and unpredictability to a defense that already boasts three former first-round draft choices along the line, headed by five-time Pro Bowler Richard Seymour.

The Patriots were only minutes away from going to their fourth Super Bowl in six years last season. This time, they believe they will get there.

COACHING

Bill Belichick is the best in the business right now, with three Super Bowl championship rings to prove it. Although the Patriots haven't won a Super Bowl since offensive coordinator Charlie Weis took over at Notre Dame and defensive coordinator Romeo became head coach of the Browns in 2005, you'd be hard pressed to find anyone who thinks the Pats still aren't one of the toughest teams in the league to game-plan against. Young Josh McDaniels heads into his second season as offensive coordinator, while Dean Pees, who's been coaching for 34 years, is in his second year as defensive coordinator.

RATING: 9

QUARTERBACKS

Tom Brady always has done more with less. Despite a receiving corps that was mediocre, at best, he threw 24 touchdown passes (to 11 different receivers) last year, had only 12 interceptions, and completed 61.8 percent of his passes (319 of 516) for 3,529 yards.

This year, he has more to work with. A lot more. At 30, and entering his seventh season as a starter, Brady is in his prime. And, finally, he has some prime-time receivers. Extremely durable, Brady has never missed a start since taking over when Drew Bledsoe was injured in the second game of the 2001 season. It's fortunate that he's been so healthy, because his backup, Matt Cassel, hasn't started a game since high school.

RATING: 8.5

RUNNING BACKS

New England's ability to throw the ball should make it much easier for last year's No. 1 draft choice, Laurence Maroney, to pick up the slack resulting from the departure of veteran Corey

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR Randy Moss

The guy has Hall of Fame credentials, but House of Detention demeanor. The Patriots are counting on him to be a game-breaker, not a morale-breaker. If he really wants to win a Super Bowl, he's in the right place.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
TE Kyle Brady, CB Eddie Jackson, CB Tory James, RB Sammy Morris, WR Donte' Stallworth, LB Adalius Thomas, WR Kelley Washington, WR/KR Wes Welker

KEY LOSS:
RB Corey Dillon (16/13)*
Productive veteran led the Patriots in rushing all three of his years in New England. With him gone, the burden falls on Laurence Maroney, who played well last year as a rookie, but is coming off shoulder surgery.

OTHER LOSSES
LB Tully Banta-Cain (16/5), LB Don Davis (12/0), LB Barry Gardner (0/0), TE Daniel Graham (12/11), S Tebucky Jones (0/0), CB Ray Mickens (4/0), RB Patrick Pass (3/0), P Todd Sauerbrun (2/0), LB Junior Seau (11/10), QB Vinny Testaverde (3/0), P Len Walter (4/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 9 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

Dillon, who scored 13 touchdowns last season while leading the team in rushing, with 812 yards on 199 carries. Maroney gained 745 on 175 attempts, and also caught 22 passes.

Speaking of passes, that's Kevin Faulk's specialty. He caught 43 last season, mostly coming out of the backfield. He also was the team's leading punt returner, averaging 10.6 yards on 31 returns.

Sammy Morris rushed for 123 yards against the Patriots in a game last December in Miami. That was a big reason they've brought him in to back up Maroney.

RATING: 6.5

RECEIVERS

Talk about a makeover. What the Patriots have done with their receiving corps is the equivalent of turning Rosie O'Donnell into Angelina Jolie.

Not only did they sign Stallworth, who averaged an eye-popping 19.1 yards a catch last season for Philadelphia, but then, on the second day of the draft, they made a deal with Oakland for the talented, but troublesome Moss. And that's not all. The Patriots also made a trade with Miami for Wes Welker, who led the Dolphins in receiving last year with 67 catches.

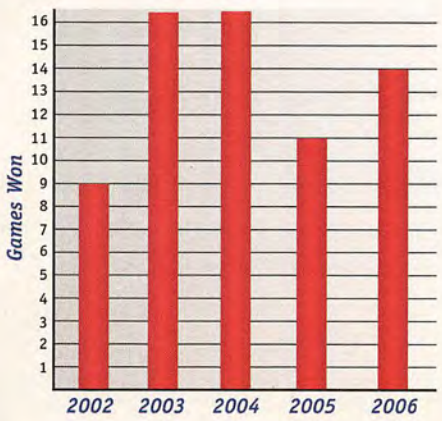
With Moss and Stallworth able to stretch the field, tight end Ben Watson, a 6-3, 255-pounder who runs like a wide receiver, should benefit tremendously. Reche Caldwell was New England's leading receiver last year, with 61 catches for 760 yards and four touchdowns.

Chad Jackson, a second-round draft choice last year, will be trying to bounce back from off-season knee surgery. Beloved veteran Troy Brown must decide whether he wants to come back for a 15th season and fight for a roster spot.

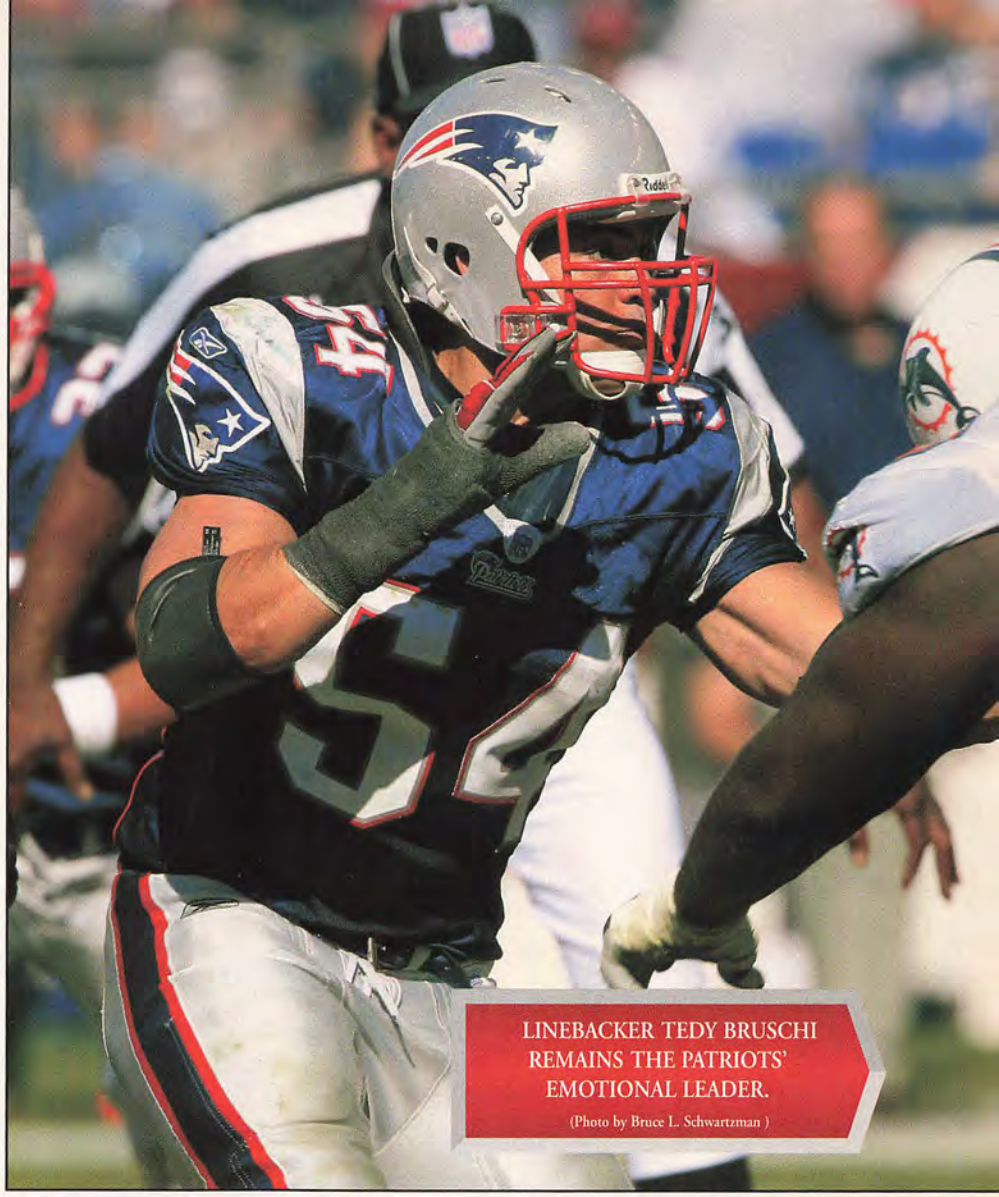
Having lost former first rounder Daniel Graham to Denver in free agency, the Pats brought in hulking (6-6, 280) veteran tight end Kyle Brady from Jacksonville as a blocking tight end.

RATING: 8

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004, 2005,2006*



LINEBACKER TEDY BRUSCHI REMAINS THE PATRIOTS' EMOTIONAL LEADER.

(Photo by Bruce L. Schwartzman)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This is a solid, veteran bunch, heading into their third season together as a unit. Center Dan Koppen, left guard Logan Mankins and left tackle Matt Light all started all 16 games in 2006. Light, with 79 career starts, is the leader of this highly-dependable group, which has allowed Brady to be sacked just 26 times in each of the last three seasons.

Mankins, a first-round pick in '05, became the first Patriots rookie guard to start every game since Hall of Famer John Hannah in 1973. Right tackle Nick Kaczur was a third-round choice in '05, when he started 11 games as a rookie. Right guard Stephen Neal never played college football. He was a two-time NCAA wrestling champion at Cal State-Bakersfield.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

With three former first rounders up front, the Patriots' defensive line is second to none in the AFC. Five-time Pro Bowler Richard Seymour is the best of the bunch, and there are many who follow the Patriots who think that his counterpart at defensive end, Ty Warren, may have been the better player last year. Nose tackle Vince Wilfork capably plugs the middle. New England's fourth defensive lineman, Jarvis Green, was tied with Warren for the team's second-highest sack total, each getting credit for 7.5.

RATING: 8

LINEBACKERS

It's like giving a chess grandmaster an extra move. Not only does Belichick have Mike Vrabel to use as a run-stuffer, a pass rusher, a pass defender, and even a tight end near the goal line, but now he also has 6-2, 270-pound Adalius Thomas, who can do everything Vrabel can do — except, perhaps, play tight end — and do it even better.

A Pro Bowler with the Ravens, Thomas racked up 11 sacks last season, and has a total of 28 over the last three years — more than any other linebacker in the league.

Sacks also are a specialty of Rosevelt Colvin, who led New England last year with 8.5. Tedy Bruschi is 34 now, but he led the team in tackles last season

Patriots Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
88	Brady, Kyle (TE)	6-6	280	13	Penn State	16/14	UFA,JAX 07	D1 NYJ 95	Brought in to block, hulking veteran can catch, too.
80	Brown, Troy	5-10	196	15	Marshall	16/9	D8 93	D8 NE 93	Pats fans hoping he comes back for another season; probably will.
87	Caldwell, Reche	6-0	210	6	Florida	16/14	UFA,SD 06	D3 SD 02	Not likely to repeat as Pats leading receiver this season.
13	Childress, Bam	5-10	185	1	Ohio State	2/0	FA 06	OFA NE 05	Came off practice squad to catch two balls vs. Jaguars in December.
10	Gaffney, Jabar	6-1	205	6	Florida	11/6	FA 06	D2 HOUS 02	Led team in post-season receptions with 21; two for touchdowns.
17	Jackson, Chad	6-1	215	2	Florida	12/1	D2 06	D2 NE 06	Coming off ACL surgery after making 13 catches as rookie.
19	Kight, Kelvin	6-0	213	1	Florida	4/1	FA 06	OFA STL 04	Played in four games after being promoted from practice squad.
85	Kranchick, Matt (TE)	6-7	260	3	Penn State	0/0	FA 07	D6 PITT 04	Late-season signee to practice squad; will come to camp this summer.
45	*Mills, Garrett (TE/FB)	6-1	235	2	Tulsa	0/0	D4 06	D4 NE 06	Fourth-round pick in '06 ended season on injured reserve; hopes to contribute in '07.
	Moss, Randy	**6-4**	**210**	**10**	**Marshall**	**13/13**	**T,OAK 07**	**D1 MINN 98**	**Big-play receiver could be huge bargain for 4th-round draft pick.**
81	Smith, Jonathan	5-10	194	3	Georgia Tech	2/0	FA 07	D7 BUFF 04	Got into a couple of games after coming to New England from the Bills.
18	**Stallworth, Donte'**	**6-0**	**196**	**6**	**Tennessee**	**12/11**	**UFA,PHA 07**	**D1 NO 02**	**Deep threat averaged 19.1 yards per catch for Philadelphia in '06.**
86	Thomas, David (TE)	6-3	248	2	Texas	16/3	D3 06	D3 NE 06	Looked good as rookie, making 11 receptions and playing special teams.
15	*Washington, Kelley	6-3	216	5	Tennessee	5/1	UFA,CIN 07	D3 CIN 03	Likely to have a better chance to play for Pats than he did in Cincinnati.
84	**Watson, Benjamin (TE)**	**6-3**	**255**	**4**	**Georgia**	**13/13**	**D1 04**	**D1 NE 04**	**Could be huge year for big tight end with Moss and Stallworth in town.**
83	**Welker, Wes (KR)**	**5-9**	**185**	**4**	**Texas Tech**	**16/2**	**T,MIA 07**	**OFA SD 04**	**Led Dolphins last year in receiving; also returned punts and kickoffs.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
65	Britt, Wesley (T)	6-8	320	2	Alabama	10/1	FA 06	D5 SD 05	Made one start last season, against Cincinnati.
60	Elgin, Mike (G/C)	6-4	277	R	Iowa	0/0	D7 07	D7 NE 07	Biggest plus is he also started at center for the Hawkeyes.
63	Hilliard, Corey (T/G)	6-6	315	R	Oklahoma State	0/0	D6 07	D6 NE 07	Has NFL size, but does he have NFL ability?
71	Hochstein, Russ (G/C)	6-4	305	7	Nebraska	13/0	FA 03	D5 TB 01	Valuable veteran backup can play anywhere on offensive line.
77	**Kaczur, Nick (T)**	**6-4**	**315**	**3**	**Toledo**	**11/9**	**D3 05**	**D3 NE 05**	**Starting right tackle gets better every year.**
67	**Koppen, Dan (C)**	**6-2**	**296**	**5**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**D6 03**	**D5 NE 03**	**Smart, tough vet started every game last season.**
72	**Light, Matt (T)**	**6-4**	**305**	**7**	**Purdue**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 NE 01**	**Standout left tackle is key reason Brady has never missed a start.**
70	**Mankins, Logan (G/T)**	**6-4**	**310**	**3**	**Fresno State**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 NE 05**	**In '05, became first rookie since John Hannah to start every game at guard.**
64	Mruczkowski, Gene (C/G)	6-2	305	5	Purdue	1/0	FA 06	OFA NE 03	On and off roster several times last year as insurance policy for line.
61	**Neal, Stephen (G)**	**6-4**	**305**	**5**	**Cal State-Bakersfield**	**13/13**	**FA 01**	**OFA NE 01**	**Two-time NCAA wrestling champion knows how to use his hands.**
68	O'Callaghan, Ryan (T)	6-7	330	2	California	11/6	D5 06	D5 NE 06	Has the size; now needs to get some experience.
76	Oldenburg, Clint (T)	6-5	297	R	Colorado State	0/0	D5 07	D5 NE 07	Better hope Belichick doesn't find out he majored in journalism.
74	*Yates, Billy (G)	6-2	305	3	Texas A&M	4/3	FA 06	OFA MIA 03	Came off practice squad to make first NFL start against Vikes in October.
RUNNING BACKS									
44	Evans, Heath (FB)	6-0	250	7	Auburn	16/3	FA 05	D3 SEA 01	Throwback fullback scored first NFL touchdown on pass against Miami.
33	Faulk, Kevin	5-8	202	9	Louisiana State	15/1	D2 99	D2 NE 99	Receiving threat out of backfield, also ran for 43-yard touchdown.
43	Hairston, Justise	6-1	210	R	Central Connecticut	0/0	D6 07	D6 NE 07	Went to same school as Pats personnel guru Scott Pioli.
39	**Maroney, Laurence**	**5-11**	**220**	**2**	**Minnesota**	**14/0**	**D1 06**	**D1 NE 06**	**Will be doing the brunt of the ball carrying now that Corey Dillon's gone.**
34	Morris, Sammy (FB)	6-0	218	8	Texas Tech	12/4	UFA,MIA 07	D5 BUFF 00	As a Dolphin, ran for 123 yards against Patriots last December.
QUARTERBACKS									
12	**Brady, Tom**	**6-4**	**225**	**8**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**D6 00**	**D6 NE 00**	**Can't wait to start throwing the ball to new big-play receivers.**
16	Cassel, Matt	6-4	225	3	Southern Cal	6/0	D7 05	D7 NE 05	Hasn't started a game since high school; backed up two Heisman winners at Southern Cal.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
98	Brown, Kareem (T)	6-4	290	R	Miami	0/0	D4 07	D4 NE 07	His 11.5 sacks made him the Hurricanes' Defensive Player of the Year.
97	Green, Jarvis (E)	6-3	285	6	Louisiana State	16/4	D4 02	D4 NE 02	Tied for second on team last year with 7.5 sacks.
91	Hill, Marquise (E)	6-6	300	4	Louisiana State	4/0	D2 04	D2 NE 04	Has been a huge disappointment since picked high three years ago.
93	**Seymour, Richard (E)**	**6-6**	**310**	**7**	**Georgia**	**16/15**	**D1 01**	**D1 NE 01**	**Five-time Pro Bowler ranks among the league's best linemen.**
90	Smith, Le Kevin (NT)	6-1	308	2	Nebraska	3/0	D6 06	D6 NE 06	Saw limited action late last season; inactive for playoffs.
94	**Warren, Ty (E)**	**6-5**	**300**	**5**	**Texas A&M**	**15/15**	**D1 03**	**D1 NE 03**	**Some think he was Pats' best defensive lineman last year.**
75	**Wilfork, Vince (NT)**	**6-2**	**325**	**4**	**Miami**	**13/13**	**D1 04**	**D1 NE 04**	**Smart, personable player plugs middle most capably.**
99	Wright, Mike (NT)	6-4	295	3	Cincinnati	16/3	OFA 05	OFA NE 05	Led team with career-high 12 tackles against the Titans.
LINEBACKERS									
52	Alexander, Eric (O)	6-2	240	2	Louisiana State	14/0	FA 06	OFA NE 04	Last seen getting beat for long gain late in AFC championship game.
54	**Bruschi, Tedy (I)**	**6-1**	**247**	**12**	**Arizona**	**15/14**	**D3 96**	**D3 NE 96**	**Inspirational veteran led New England in tackles last season.**
59	**Colvin, Rosevelt (O)**	**6-3**	**250**	**9**	**Purdue**	**16/15**	**UFA,CHI 03**	**D4 CHI 99**	**Pass-rushing specialist topped the team last year with 8.5 sacks.**
53	Izzo, Larry (I)	5-10	228	12	Rice	16/0	UFA,MIA 01	OFA MIA 96	His specialty is special teams, where he's been a three-time Pro Bowler.
48	Lua, Oscar (I)	6-1	240	R	Southern Cal	0/	D7 07	D7 NE 07	Leading tackler for Trojans, and Pats need help at inside linebacker.
46	Mays, Corey (I)	6-1	245	2	Notre Dame	8/0	FA 06	OFA NE 06	Will be bidding to play on more than just special teams this season.
51	Rogers, Justin	6-4	250	R	Southern Methodist	0/0	D6 07	D6 NE 07	Led the Mustangs last year with 9.5 sacks.
96	**Thomas, Adalius (O)**	**6-2**	**270**	**8**	**Southern Mississippi**	**16/16**	**UFA,BLT 07**	**D6 BLT 00**	**Highly sought-after free agent adds even more versatility to defense.**
50	**Vrabel, Mike (I)**	**6-4**	**261**	**11**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**UFA,PITT 01**	**D3 PITT 97**	**Like Thomas, heady veteran can play the run, blitz quarterback, or drop in coverage.**
58	Woods, Pierre (O)	6-5	250	2	Michigan	8/0	OFA 06	OFA NE 06	Played mostly on special teams, making 11 tackles.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
23	Andrews, Willie (S)	5-10	195	2	Baylor	15/0	D7 06	D7 NE 06	Tied for team lead with 15 special teams tackles.
32	Baker, Rashad (S)	5-10	198	4	Tennessee	6/0	W,MINN 06	OFA BUFF 04	Claimed off waivers, played mostly on special teams.
21	*Gay, Randall (CB)	5-11	190	4	Louisiana State	3/0	OFA 04	OFA NE 04	Has been hurt last two years after starting nine games as a rookie in '04.
37	**Harrison, Rodney (S)**	**6-1**	**220**	**14**	**Western Illinois**	**10/10**	**FA 03**	**D5 SD 94**	**Injuries an increasing problem as hard-hitting vet gets older.**
25	Hawkins, Artrell (S)	5-10	195	10	Cincinnati	14/12	FA 05	D2 CIN 98	Started all three post-season games at safety, getting sack at San Diego.
27	**Hobbs, Ellis (CB)**	**5-9**	**190**	**3**	**Iowa State**	**15/9**	**D3 05**	**D3 NE 05**	**Returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown against the Texans.**
29	*Jackson, Eddie (CB)	6-0	200	4	Arkansas	14/2	FA 07	OFA CARO 04	Comes from Miami to provide depth in defensive backfield.
28	James, Tory (CB)	6-2	192	12	Louisiana State	16/16	UFA,CIN 07	D2 DEN 96	One of veteran corner's four interceptions last season for Bengals came against New England.
38	Meriweather, Brandon (S)	5-11	195	R	Miami	0/0	D1 07	D1 MINN 07	Top draft choice can play both safety positions, and cornerback, too.
24	*Mitchell, Mel (S)	6-1	225	6	Western Kentucky	0/0	UFA,NO 06	D5 NO 02	Signed from Saints last year, was hurt in training camp and went on injured reserve.
35	Richardson, Mike (CB)	5-11	188	R	Notre Dame	0/0	D6 07	D6 NE 07	Secondary was a weak spot for the Fighting Irish.
22	**Samuel, Asante (CB)**	**5-10**	**185**	**5**	**Central Florida**	**15/15**	**D4 03**	**D4 NE 03**	**Tied for NFL lead with 10 interceptions; returned two for touchdowns in playoffs.**
36	Sanders, James (S)	5-10	210	3	Fresno State	16/5	D4 05	D4 NE 05	A starter in all three post-season games after making five starts in regular season.
30	Scott, Chad (CB)	6-1	205	11	Maryland	14/9	FA 05	D1 PITT 97	Veteran provides depth at critical cornerback position.
31	Spann, Antwain (CB)	6-0	190	2	Louisiana-Lafayette	8/0	FA 06	OFA NYG 05	Activated off practice squad, played on special teams in the playoffs.
42	Williams, Gemara (CB)	5-8	180	2	Buffalo	0/0	FA 06	OFA NE 06	Undrafted rookie spent last season on injured reserve list.
26	***Wilson, Eugene (CB)**	**5-10**	**195**	**5**	**Illinois**	**4/4**	**D2 03**	**D2 NE 03**	**Starting safety played in only four games before being placed on injured reserve in 2006.**
SPECIALISTS									
3	Gostkowski, Steven (K)	6-1	210	2	Memphis	16/0	D4 06	D4 NE 06	Made 18 of last 21 field-goal attempts as a rookie last year.
8	*Miller, Josh (P)	6-4	225	12	Arizona	10/0	FA 04	OFA GB 93	Averaged 43 yards a punt before going on injured reserve in late November.
66	Paxton, Lonie (LS)	6-2	260	8	Cal State-Sacramento	16/0	OFA 00	OFA NE 00	One of the most reliable deep snappers in the league.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): TE Jake Nordin (Northern Illinois); C Brian Barthelmes (1, Virginia); QB Matt Gutierrez (Idaho State); RB Quinton Smith (Rice); FB Quadtrine Hill (1, Miami); DE Zach West (Texas-El Paso); DT Santonio Thomas (1, Miami); LBs Kyle Bissinger (UAB), Justin Warren (Texas A&M); DB Larry Anam (Boston College); LS Tony Case (1, Adams State); Ps Danny Baugher (1, Arizona), Tom Malone (1, Southern Cal)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*An even more wide-open offense, as Tom Brady can go deep to Donte' Stallworth and Randy Moss, which will create space for Wes Welker, Ben Watson, Reche Caldwell and Kevin Faulk. The question is whether there will be enough balls to go around and whether Moss can stay healthy.

*An even stingier defense. The number of ways Bill Belichick can use Adalius Thomas and Mike Vrabel is mind-boggling. That will go with a defensive line that doesn't get much notice except for Richard Seymour.

*Randy Moss doing something that will disturb the Patriots' carefully-cultivated karma. Belichick is taking something of a risk, but Moss is on a one-year contract and there was no guaranteed money in his deal.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Laurence Maroney

Between the two of them, Corey Dillon and Laurence Maroney combined for 1,557 yards and 19 touchdowns on 374 carries last season. Now that Dillon is gone, the big question surrounding the New England ground game is how many Maroney can account for on his own — especially since he's coming off shoulder surgery.

The Patriots have confidence he can do the job, as he showed a combination of speed, power and elusiveness in rushing for 745 yards and six touchdowns on 175 carries as a rookie, when the Patriots took him with the 21st pick in the first round out of Minnesota. Although the Gophers didn't throw to him very often, Maroney picked up the pro passing game quickly, catching 22 for 194 yards and a touchdown.

He also ranked second in the league in kickoff returns, averaging 28.0 yards on 28 returns. But don't expect him to be running back many kicks this year. The Patriots will want to save his legs — and keep him healthy — so he can do the brunt of the ball carrying. The Patriots will be counting heavily on him to run the ball if they're going to make another run at what would be a fourth Super Bowl championship in seven years.

and continues to be an inspirational leader after coming back to play following a stroke early in 2005.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

The secondary is a primary concern for the Patriots, who have had trouble in recent years keeping their defensive backs healthy. That's why they used their first-round draft choice this year on Miami Hurricanes defensive back Brandon Meriweather, who can play both safety positions, as well as fill in at corner.

Cornerback would seem to be one spot the Pats are in good shape, with NFL interception co-leader Asante Samuel. He picked off 10 passes during the regular season, then added two more in the playoffs, returning both for touchdowns. But he wasn't happy when New England made him their franchise player, instead of rewarding him with a lucrative, long-term contract. It's possible he could pull a training camp holdout of the sort that resulted in disgruntled wide receiver Deion Branch being traded to Seattle before last season. Ellis Hobbs mans the other corner, and the Patriots have two veteran backups in Chad Scott and Tory James.

At safety, hard-hitting Rodney Harrison will be 35 in December and has been sidelined by injuries each of the past two years. That resulted in more playing time for James Sanders, a fourth-round pick of the Patriots in '05. Artrell Hawkins started 12 games last season, intercepting one pass.

RATING: 6.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Laurence Maroney was second in the NFL in kickoff return average, but he'll likely cede the job to Wes Welker, who was the Dolphins' top return man last year, averaging 22.2 yards on 48 kickoff returns and 9.2 yards on 41 punt returns.

Rookie kicker Stephen Gostkowski faced the unenviable task of succeeding New England legend Adam Vinatieri, who signed a lucrative contract with the Colts after earning a place in Patriots history by booting last-second, game-winning field goals in Super Bowls XXXVI and XXXVIII. Gostkowski made 18 of his last 21 field-goal attempts, but was only 10 of 15 from 30 yards and beyond.

RATING: 6

INTANGIBLES

Just how much it bothered the Patriots to blow that big lead in the AFC Championship Game at Indianapolis has been evidenced by how aggressive the team has been in its efforts to improve an already strong club in the off-season. This is a team that is rankled by just missing out on yet another trip to the Super Bowl, and is determined to get back there this season.

RATING: Plus 2

— Jim Donaldson

2006 RESULTS

Record: 14-5

Sep. 10	BUFFALO	19-17
Sep. 17	at N.Y. Jets	24-17
Sep. 24	DENVER	7-17
Oct. 1	at Cincinnati	38-13
Oct. 8	MIAMI	20-10
Oct. 15	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 22	at Buffalo	28- 6
Oct. 30	at Minnesota	31- 7
Nov. 5	INDIANAPOLIS	20-27
Nov. 12	N.Y. JETS	14-17
Nov. 19	at Green Bay	35- 0
Nov. 26	CHICAGO	17-13
Dec. 3	DETROIT	28-21
Dec. 10	at Miami	0-21
Dec. 17	HOUSTON	40- 7
Dec. 24	at Jacksonville	24-21
Dec. 31	at Tennessee	40-23
Jan. 7	N.Y. JETS	37-16
Jan. 14	at San Diego	24-21
Jan. 21	at Indianapolis	34-38

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 10	at Tampa Bay (Fri.)	7:30
Aug. 17	TENNESSEE (Fri.)	8:00
Aug. 24	at Carolina (Fri.)	8:00
Aug. 30	N.Y. GIANTS (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 9	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Sep. 16	SAN DIEGO	8:15
Sep. 23	BUFFALO	1:00
Oct. 1	at Cincinnati (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 7	CLEVELAND	1:00
Oct. 14	at Dallas	3:15
Oct. 21	at Miami	1:00
Oct. 28	WASHINGTON	4:15
Nov. 4	at Indianapolis	4:15
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 25	PHILADELPHIA	8:15
Dec. 3	at Baltimore (Mon.)	8:30
Dec. 9	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Dec. 16	N.Y. JETS	1:00
Dec. 23	MIAMI	1:00
Dec. 29	at N.Y. Giants (Sat.)	8:15

AT A GLANCE

1000 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, N.Y. 11550
(516) 560-8100

TRAINING CAMP:
Weeb Ewbank Hall; Hempstead, N.Y.

COACH:
Eric Mangini, 2nd year with Jets and as NFL head coach (10-7)

PRESIDENT:
Jay Cross

GENERAL MANAGER:
Mike Tannenbaum

DIRECTOR, PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Terry Bradway

ASST. DIRECTOR, PLAYER PERSONNEL:
JoJo Wooden

DIRECTOR, COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Joey Clinkscales

COORDINATOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Jason Mandolesi

SENIOR CONSULTANT:
Jesse Kaye

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Brian Schottenheimer	Offensive coordinator	9	2
Brian Daboll	Quarterbacks	8	1
Jimmy Raye	Running backs	31	2
Tony Wise	Offensive line	19	2
Mike Devlin	Tight ends/asst. line	6	2
Noel Mazzone	Receivers	2	2
Mike Bloomgren	Offensive quality control	1	1
Jason Michael	Offensive quality control	3	2
Brian Smith	Offensive quality control	1	1
Bob Sutton	Defensive coordinator	8	8
Dan Quinn	Defensive line	9	2
Bryan Cox	Assistant defensive line	2	2
Jim Herrmann	Linebackers	2	2
Mike MacIntyre	Secondary	5	1
Jerome Henderson	Assistant secondary	2	2
Andy Dickerson	Defensive quality control	1	1
Denny Marcin	Defensive assistant	11	4
Mike Westhoff	Special teams	23	7
Ben Kotwica	Spec. teams qual. control	1	1
Sal Alosi	Strength & Conditioning	6	5
Rick Lyle	Strength & Conditioning	2	2
Mike Jones	Strength & Conditioning	1	1

Mangini's Debut Sign of Good Things in Jets Future

The Jets proved to be the biggest surprise in the NFL last season — even to their most devoted fans. After a 4-12 campaign in 2005, a new coaching staff and front office for 2006 and a quarterback coming off his second shoulder operation, expectations were understandably low.

Yet, new coach Eric Mangini instilled a new sense of pride in the squad. That translated into a 10-6 record, a trip to the playoffs and a belief that 2007 could be even better.

COACHING

Mangini came in with many demands, curious for a guy who was a first-year head coach with only one year as a coordinator. His training camp regimen also angered several players, who complained openly and claimed exhaustion before the season even started. Yet, those extra laps worked in the Jets' favor near the end of the season when the team continued to play well — winning five of its last six — and made the playoffs. That had players changing their tune about Mangini and few will question the young coach's methods this time around.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

Chad Pennington had to compete for his job with three others in training camp last year and rightfully so after two shoulder surgeries. But the eight-year pro was solid leading the offense in 2006 with a 64.5 completion percentage and throwing for 3,352 yards, 17 touchdowns and 16 interceptions to earn Comeback Player of the Year honors. Most importantly, Pennington played his first full season, plus a playoff game, without missing a game due to injury.

Now, Pennington comes in as the starter, with no competition and a drive to improve further. As long as the Jets allow Pennington to work to his strengths as an accurate, play-action passer, the offense should continue to be productive. Kellen Clemens will remain the quarterback-in-waiting, but he'll likely be the No.3 quarterback behind experienced backup Marques Tuiasosopo, signed in the off-season.

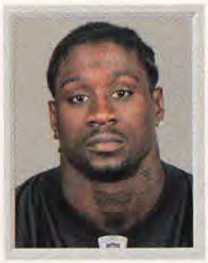
RATING: 7.5

RUNNING BACKS

Curtis Martin is officially retired after spending all of 2006 off the field with injuries. So is the three-headed tailback committee of Leon Washington, Kevan Barlow and Cedric Houston the Jets used in 2006, with the trio producing 15 scores and fewer than 1,400 yards. In comes Thomas Jones after a trade with the Bears, giving the Jets a legitimate feature back that can handle 25 carries a game and produce 100-yard games on a consistent basis. Jones, 28, has rushed for more than 1,200 yards in each of the last two seasons and because he's split work with others during his time in Chicago, he should be reasonably fresh for his age.

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
RB Thomas Jones



The Jets finally get the feature tailback they've been craving since injuries debilitated future Hall of Famer Curtis Martin in the middle of 2005. Jones should account for 25 carries a game.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
FB Darian Barnes, DE David Bowens, DE Kenyon Coleman, DE Michael Haynes, QB Marques Tuiasosopo, DE Andre Wadsworth

KEY LOSS:
FB B.J. Askew (13/5)*
The fullback is the Jets' only significant loss this off-season and it certainly isn't key. Askew was never counted on for yardage and while his blocking improved over several seasons, it wasn't enough.

OTHER LOSSES
DE Dave Ball (10/0), RB Kevan Barlow (12/3), RB Derrick Blaylock (4/2), FB James Hodgins 6/0), DT Rashad Moore (13/0), QB Patrick Ramsey (1/0), OL Trey Teague (0/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
22; 11 offense, 11 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

The 5-8 Washington led the Jets with 650 yards last season — the second fewest among all team leaders in the NFL last season — and will still get work as the Jets' change-of-pace back. Houston, once looked at as Martin's heir apparent, will get some mop-up work as may fullback Darian Barnes.

RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

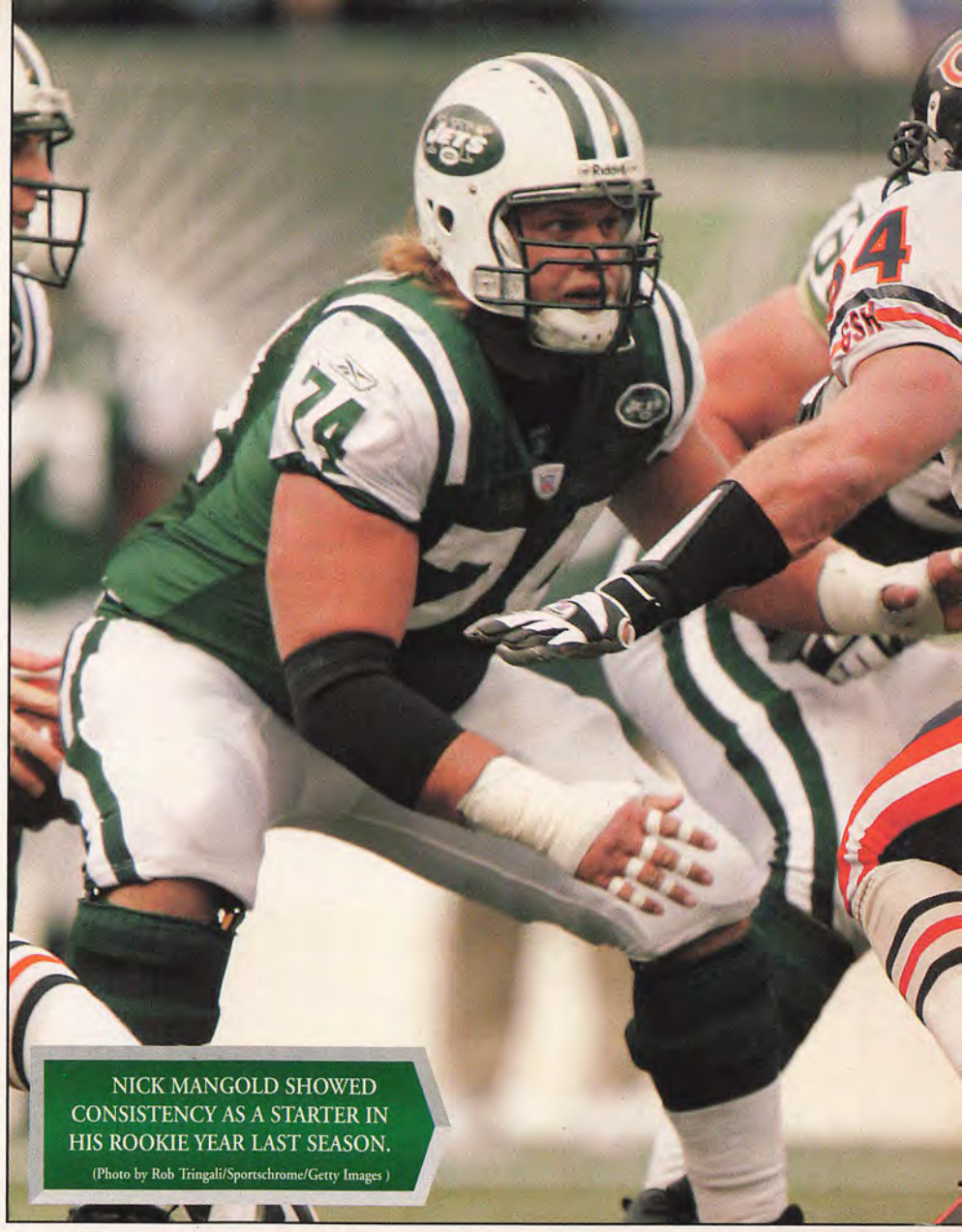
Laveranues Coles, in his second year back in New York after his brief self-imposed exile to Washington, battled several painful injuries and still managed to lead the Jets with 91 catches, nearly 1,100 yards and six touchdowns. More impressive was the quick development of third-year player Jerricho Cotchery as the No. 2 receiver, producing 82 catches for 961 yards and six touchdowns. As acrobatic as Coles and Cotchery are — the pair combined for several big plays — neither one stands over 6-0 and the Jets are still looking for that tall target they can go to in the back of the end zone.

Justin McCareins was supposed to be that target, but has produced just seven touchdowns in three seasons as a Jet. Tight end Chris Baker had a career-high 31 catches and didn't drop as many balls as he had in previous seasons. Yet, with so much youth on the offensive line, Baker often had to stay back and block in the passing game. That's why the Jets brought in Sean Ryan right before last season.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

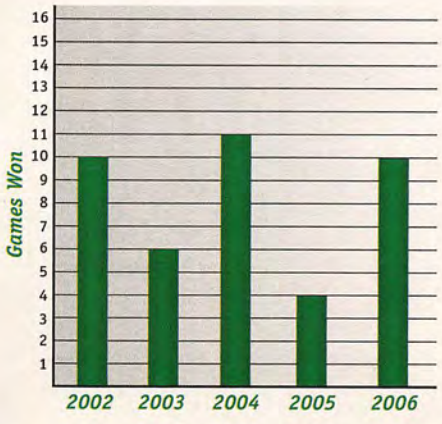
The Jets allowed 34 sacks last year, but it's not a true indication of how much the unit improved and will improve over the years. The additions of first round picks D'Brickashaw Ferguson (No. 4) and Nick Mangold (No. 29) at left tackle and center last season were big steps in getting younger and the Jets have — they hope — locked up the two most important positions on the line for years to come. Ferguson slowed down at the end of the season, but Mangold dazzled all year long.



NICK MANGOLD SHOWED CONSISTENCY AS A STARTER IN HIS ROOKIE YEAR LAST SEASON.

(Photo by Rob Tringali/Sportschrome/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2002, 2004, 2006*

The Jets essentially had a project in guard Brandon Moore a few seasons ago and he developed enough to solidify the right side of the line. Veteran Anthony Clement was re-signed after an OK, but hardly spectacular year at right tackle. Former starter Adrian Jones, on thin ice with Mangini after a DUI arrest last November, may not be around long. Veteran Pete Kendall has been stalwart at left guard as well as a good locker-room leader, but there were rumblings in May about a possible trade.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This group got off to a slow start as the Jets switched from a 4-3 scheme to a 3-4 and some wondered whether the team had the right personnel for the new formation. Defensive tackle Dewayne Robertson has become a force inside and a solid run-stuffer. Yet, even with a career-best 61 tackles, Robertson hasn't turned into the playmaker some envisioned him to be and he doesn't have the size for a true nose tackle in the 3-4. End Shaun Ellis started slow like the rest, managing just five sacks.

The only player who truly fit the 3-4 was end Kimo von Oelhoffen, but he wasn't much of a factor on the field. The Jets, however, do like his leadership. The Jets brought in David Bowens and Kenyon Coleman — two big, powerful, experienced ends — as free agents and that should help the pass rush. A knee injury sidelined Sione Pouha for the entire season, but some believe he could be the prototypical 3-4 nose tackle.

RATING: 6

LINEBACKERS

Bryan Thomas was the one player who benefited from the switch to a 3-4 almost immediately. Moved from defensive end to stand-up outside linebacker, Thomas led the Jets with 8.5 sacks. Victor Hobson had six sacks and probably put together his best season for the Jets, while Eric Barton was a solid veteran presence who, while taking some time to adjust, registered 4.5 sacks.

Jonathan Vilma, however, was hurt by the new

Jets Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
86	**Baker, Chris (TE)**	**6-3**	**258**	**6**	**Michigan State**	**16/14**	**D3 02**	**D3 NYJ 02**	**Since the Jets didn't draft a tight end, the job remains his.**
87	**Coles, Laveranues**	**5-11**	**193**	**8**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**T,WSH 05**	**D3 NYJ 00**	**You wonder when all those injuries will finally keep him off the field.**
89	**Cotchery, Jerricho (KR)**	**6-0**	**207**	**4**	**North Carolina State**	**16/16**	**D4 04**	**D4 NYJ 04**	**Matured at just the right time. Could be the Jets' No. 1 receiver soon.**
85	Dearth, James (TE/LS)	6-4	270	7	Tarleton State	16/0	FA 01	D6 CLV 99	The Jets know the value in grooming and keeping a dependable long snapper.
17	*Dwight, Tim (KR)	5-8	180	10	Iowa	9/2	UFA,NE 06	D4 ATL 98	Dependable, but an injury allowed others to flourish in the return game.
18	Jackson, Frisman	6-3	217	5	Western Illinois	0/0	FA 07	OFA CLV 02	Five-year vet could make an impact in training camp.
81	McCareins, Justin	6-2	215	7	Northern Illinois	16/7	T,TENN 04	D4 TENN 01	He makes almost $3 million as the No. 3 receiver. Do the math.
82	*Pociask, Jason (TE)	6-2	259	2	Wisconsin	0/0	D5 06	D5 NYJ 06	The Jets coaches love their backup tight ends to block well and he does this.
88	Ryan, Sean (TE)	6-5	265	3	Boston College	16/3	T,DALL 06	D5 DALL 04	No pressure to perform offensively because of ability to block.
16	Smith, Brad (QB/RB)	6-2	210	2	Missouri	16/3	D4 06	D4 NYJ 06	His athleticism remains exciting; they need to find a way to use him more.
83	Stuckey, Chansi	6-0	185	R	Clemson	0/0	D7 07	D7 NYJ 07	Back-to-back All-ACC receiver at Clemson. Led the Tigers with 700 yards.
15	Wright, Wallace	6-0	191	1	North Carolina	5/0	FA 06	OFA NYJ 06	Good size, will battle for final receiver spots on roster.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
72	Bender, Jacob (T)	6-6	315	R	Nicholls State	0/0	D6 07	D6 NYJ 07	The Jets love projects when it comes to offensive linemen.
78	Blanton, Ed (T)	6-9	330	1	UCLA	0/0	FA 06	OFA NYJ 06	Needs a great training camp to stick.
61	Clarke, Adrien (G)	6-5	330	3	Ohio State	0/0	FA 07	D7 PHA 04	A guard this size deserves a look.
68	**Clement, Anthony (T)**	**6-8**	**320**	**10**	**Southwestern Louisiana**	**16/16**	**UFA,SF 06**	**D2 ARIZ 98**	**Didn't dazzle anyone last season, but he'll get another chance.**
60	**Ferguson, D'Brickashaw (T)**	**6-6**	**312**	**2**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 NYJ 06**	**The Jets aren't worried, but he needs to get better.**
76	Goddard, Na'Shan (T)	6-5	315	2	South Carolina	0/0	W,NYG 06	OFA NYG 06	The former Giant moves across the NJ-NY border.
79	Jones, Adrian (T)	6-5	296	4	Kansas	9/0	D4 04	D4 NYJ 04	Switched from defensive tackle; he could be gone after off-the-field troubles.
66	**Kendall, Pete (G)**	**6-5**	**292**	**12**	**Boston College**	**14/14**	**FA 04**	**D1 SEA 96**	**He's the go-to guy, both for key plays and quotes from the locker room.**
74	**Mangold, Nick (C)**	**6-4**	**300**	**2**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 NYJ 06**	**Better than advertised after starting the whole season as a rookie.**
65	**Moore, Brandon (G)**	**6-3**	**295**	**5**	**Illinois**	**16/16**	**FA 03**	**OFA NYJ 02**	**Other players get the headlines, but he's the most underrated player.**
71	Smith, Wade (C)	6-4	318	5	Memphis	9/0	FA 06	D3 MIA 03	Should be Mangold's backup, giving the Jets a little more experience.
RUNNING BACKS									
37	**Barnes, Darian (FB)**	**6-2**	**240**	**6**	**Hampton**	**16/6**	**UFA,MIA 07**	**OFA NYG 02**	**With B.J. Askew gone, the fullback job could be his.**
32	Houston, Cedric	6-0	220	3	Tennessee	8/1	D6 05	D6 NYJ 05	The Jets had hoped for better when they drafted him.
20	**Jones, Thomas**	**5-10**	**215**	**8**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**T,CHI 07**	**D1 ARIZ 00**	**A new contract and no competition will make him a happy camper.**
28	*Martin, Curtis	5-11	210	13	Pittsburgh	0/0	RFA,NE 98	D3 NE 95	Career is probably over, but he hasn't said anything official yet.
45	Tutt, Stacy (FB)	6-1	233	1	Richmond	2/0	FA 06	OFA NYJ 06	Will compete at fullback spot, but will only play if he's the best blocker.
29	Washington, Leon	5-8	202	2	Florida State	16/8	D4 06	D4 NYJ 06	Too small to be a feature back; his versatility keeps him on the field.
QUARTERBACKS									
11	Clemens, Kellen	6-2	223	2	Oregon	2/0	D2 06	D2 NYJ 06	Could be just a year or two away from starting.
10	**Pennington, Chad**	**6-3**	**225**	**7**	**Marshall**	**16/16**	**D1 00**	**D1 NYJ 00**	**The doubters drove him almost as much as his own expectations.**
8	Tuiasosopo, Marques	6-1	220	7	Washington	2/0	UFA,OAK 07	D2 OAK 01	Should have more upside as a backup than Patrick Ramsey did.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
96	Bowens, David (E)	6-3	265	8	Western Illinois	16/0	UFA,MIA 07	D5 DEN 99	Can be used as a pass-rushing specialist, which the Jets need.
93	Coleman, Kenyon (E)	6-5	295	5	UCLA	16/0	UFA,DALL 07	D5 OAK 02	Will fill out this rotation as the Jets look for perfect 3-4 players.
92	**Ellis, Shaun (E)**	**6-5**	**285**	**8**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**D1 00**	**D1 NYJ 00**	**His sack totals are dropping, and he may be on the way out.**
98	Hamilton, Bobby (E)	6-5	285	13	Southern Mississippi	16/1	FA 07	OFA SEA 94	Veteran was serviceable, but likely taking his final snaps.
94	Haynes, Michael (E)	6-4	283	4	Penn State	0/0	FA 07	D1 CHI 03	Cut by two teams in 2006; former first-rounder looking to revive career.
77	Marshall, Keyonta (T)	6-1	325	2	Grand Valley State	0/0	FA 07	D7 PHA 05	Not likely to be around when the season starts.
95	Mosley, C.J. (T)	6-2	312	3	Missouri	6/0	T,MINN 06	D6 MINN 05	The Jets need size for this unit, and that's what he provides.
91	*Pouha, Sione (T)	6-3	325	3	Utah	0/0	D3 05	D3 NYJ 05	Getting past a knee injury; could be the eventual starter on the nose.
63	**Robertson, Dewayne (T)**	**6-1**	**317**	**5**	**Kentucky**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 NYJ 03**	**Coming off his best year; still fights the expectations of a high pick.**
67	**von Oelhoffen, Kimo (T)**	**6-4**	**299**	**14**	**Boise State**	**16/16**	**UFA,PITT 06**	**D6 CIN 94**	**Age is getting the best of him.**
LINEBACKERS									
50	**Barton, Eric (O)**	**6-2**	**245**	**9**	**Maryland**	**16/15**	**UFA,OAK 04**	**D5 OAK 99**	**Jets are looking for alternatives, which could make him a cap casualty.**
58	Chatham, Matt (O)	6-4	250	8	South Dakota	16/0	UFA,NE 06	OFA STL 99	Versatility and coachability make him a key reserve
52	Harris, David (I)	6-2	243	R	Michigan	0/0	D2 07	D2 NYJ 07	Should be an every-down player in 2008.
54	**Hobson, Victor (I)**	**6-0**	**252**	**5**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**D2 03**	**D2 NYJ 03**	**Never flashy, but improves with each season, especially in the pass rush.**
55	Kassell, Brad (I)	6-3	242	6	North Texas	16/1	UFA,TENN 06	OFA TENN 02	Special teams play keeps him on the roster.
56	Schlegel, Anthony (I)	6-0	251	2	Ohio State	4/0	D3 06	D3 NYJ 06	Has to be much better as a sophomore if he wants to stick around.
53	Spencer, Cody (O)	6-2	245	4	North Texas	12/0	FA 06	D6 OAK 04	Could get some time on the outside if Barton gets cut.
99	**Thomas, Bryan (O/DE)**	**6-4**	**266**	**6**	**UAB**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 NYJ 02**	**Exploded now that the Jets figured out where to put him — at linebacker.**
51	**Vilma, Jonathan (I)**	**6-1**	**230**	**4**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 NYJ 04**	**So talented the Jets can't give him up even if he's not best in the 3-4.**
57	Wadsworth, Andre (O)	6-4	272	4	Florida State	0/0	FA 07	D1 ARIZ 98	Injuries have kept him out so long, it's hard to see how he can help.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
36	Barrett, David (CB)	5-10	195	8	Arkansas	13/3	UFA,ARIZ 04	D4 ARIZ 00	Could go back to starting should other options fail.
30	Coleman, Drew (CB)	5-9	175	2	Texas Christian	16/4	D6 06	D6 NYJ 06	So many players started last year, didn't do much to stand out.
26	**Coleman, Erik (S)**	**5-10**	**200**	**4**	**Washington State**	**16/13**	**D5 04**	**D5 NYJ 04**	**Needs to recapture the brilliance he showed his first few seasons.**
21	**Dyson, Andre (CB)**	**5-10**	**183**	**7**	**Utah**	**15/15**	**UFA,SEA 06**	**D2 TENN 01**	**The only member of the unit that doesn't come with question marks.**
27	Hodge, Alphonso (CB)	5-10	203	2	Miami (Ohio)	0/0	FA 07	D5 KC 05	One of a long list of small corners this team carries; few will make it.
22	Miller, Justin (CB/KR)	5-10	196	3	Clemson	16/4	D2 05	D2 NYJ 05	A disappointment as a corner, but stellar on kickoff returns.
31	**Poteat, Hank (CB)**	**5-10**	**195**	**6**	**Pittsburgh**	**13/7**	**FA 06**	**D3 PITT 00**	**The Jets would rather he back up, but could be in the starting mix.**
24	Revis, Darrelle (CB/PR)	5-11	204	R	Pittsburgh	0/0	D1 07	D1 NYJ 07	Jets haven't picked a cornerback in the first round since 1994, so he's special.
25	**Rhodes, Kerry (S)**	**6-3**	**210**	**3**	**Louisville**	**16/16**	**D4 05**	**D4 NYJ 05**	**Should have been a Pro Bowler; could get there this year.**
33	Smith, Eric (S)	6-1	209	2	Michigan State	15/0	D3 06	D3 NYJ 06	He thrives on special teams; won't play over Coleman or Rhodes.
38	*Thompson, Jamie (S)	6-0	192	1	Oklahoma State	3/0	FA 06	OFA NYJ 06	Hurt much of the season so he couldn't prove himself.
42	Washington, Rashad (S)	6-1	217	4	Kansas State	16/0	D7 04	D7 NYJ 04	Valuable dime back who stands out on special teams.
SPECIALISTS									
7	Graham, Ben (P)	6-5	220	3	None	16/0	OFA 05	OFA NYJ 05	Tends to fade near the end of the season, but he's as solid as they come.
1	Nugent, Mike (K)	5-9	182	3	Ohio State	16/0	D2 05	D2 NYJ 05	Still weak on kickoffs and it won't be long until it's a concern.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Dustin Osborn (Colorado State); TE Joe Kowalewski (1, Syracuse); QB Brett Ratliff (Utah); RBs Alvin Banks (James Madison), Kyle Steffes (North Dakota State); OL Dominic Moran (Western Michigan), Nick Smith (San Diego State), Andrew Wicker (Mississippi); FB Jesse Allen (Virginia Tech); DEs Darrell Adams (1, Villanova), Matt King (Maine), Jason Trusnik (Ohio Northern); DTs Mike DeVito (Maine), Zarnell Fitch (1, Texas Christian), Matt McChesney (1, Colorado); LBs Blake Costanzo (1, Lafayette), Mark Zalewski (Wisconsin); Ss Leonard Peters (Hawaii), Raymond Ventrone (1, Villanova); DB Caleb Hendrix (Southern Mississippi)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*The Jets played much better defense in the second half after they started adjusting to the new 3-4 scheme. Those improvements should continue as every starter on that side of the ball returns and gets another training camp and more games together.

*D'Brickashaw Ferguson needs to take a big step forward in his development. The Jets have little doubt in Ferguson's ability, but wanted to see more from the rookie left tackle last season after making him the fourth pick overall in the draft.

*Chad Pennington made it through a full season and the playoffs without getting hurt, but by nature he's driven to do so much more. He could have an even bigger year while he fends off competition from second-year quarterback Kellen Clemens.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Jonathan Vilma

Rumors circulated all through the off-season about the Jets trading the undersized but powerful Jonathan Vilma, whose 2006 numbers took a dive after the Jets switched from a 4-3 to a 3-4 scheme — from 169 tackles in 2005 to 113 last season. Vilma still led the Jets in that category, but his impact was lessened since he lacks the size — he's just 6-1 and 230 pounds — to take on most offensive linemen in a 3-4.

The Jets still think Vilma, who didn't produce a sack last year, can be just as effective in the 3-4. Yet, they realize the only way to do that is by considerably beefing up their defensive line, especially at nose tackle, or pair him up with a much bigger and stronger inside linebacker to keep those linemen off Vilma.

Gang Green tried that last year with veteran Eric Barton and rookie Anthony Schlegel, but Barton couldn't keep linemen occupied either and Schlegel wasn't ready for prime time. General manager Mike Tannenbaum insists Vilma will be with the Jets in 2007, but also falls short of listing the linebacker as an untouchable. Either way, the Jets expect better from the 2004 first-round pick.

system. Vilma plays sideline to sideline, but he couldn't do it with undersized defensive linemen in front of him unable to take on blockers. That's why they traded up to draft David Harris, who played in Michigan's 3-4. Matt Chatham became an important addition last off-season because he was familiar with Mangini and the new system, contributing in a reserve role and helping others adjust. Anthony Schlegel wasn't a factor as a rookie and could be gone by the end of camp.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

Andre Dyson should return as one starting corner, but the other spot is a mystery. First-round pick Darrelle Revis will be given every opportunity to earn a starting job in camp and may go in as the favorite. Veteran Hank Poteat is a hard worker, knowledgeable and finished out the season as a starter, but he'll be a reserve this year if Revis pans out right away. Justin Miller has raw talent, but the former second-round pick hasn't developed the way the Jets had hoped in the last two years.

Drew Coleman got a few shots at the right corner as a rookie last season, but only showed flashes. While the problems with the Jets' corners are plentiful, the team is solid at safety. Free safety Erik Coleman played well after a disappointing 2005 and Kerry Rhodes, with four picks and five sacks, could be a future Pro Bowler at strong safety. Eric Smith and Rashad Washington were successful in filling out the secondary, playing in the nickel and dime packages.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Mike Nugent connected on 26 of his last 27 field-goal attempts, including three in the playoff loss at New England. Yet, he still needs help on his kickoffs, which is why Nugent worked on improving his leg strength for the second straight off-season. Ben Graham continued his stellar work with 26 punts inside the 20 and a 37.8-yard net average. Miller led the NFL with a 28.3-yard average on kickoff returns and while Tim Dwight comes in as the incumbent at punt returner, he could get competition from Leon Washington, who finished out the year there after Dwight got hurt. Dependable James Dearth returns as the long snapper.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

Do the Jets stay hungry and humble after their improbable run to the post-season last year? Or do they over-promote themselves and strut into training camp feeling entitled — especially with few, if any, starting roles to be decided? Count on the former with Mangini around.

RATING: Plus 1

— Peter Zellen

2006 RESULTS

Record: 10-7

Sep. 10	at Tennessee	23-16
Sep. 17	NEW ENGLAND	17-24
Sep. 24	at Buffalo	28-20
Oct. 1	INDIANAPOLIS	28-31
Oct. 8	at Jacksonville	0-41
Oct. 15	MIAMI	20-17
Oct. 22	DETROIT	31-24
Oct. 29	at Cleveland	13-20
Nov. 5	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 12	at New England	17-14
Nov. 19	CHICAGO	0-10
Nov. 26	HOUSTON	26-11
Dec. 3	at Green Bay	38-10
Dec. 10	BUFFALO	13-31
Dec. 17	at Minnesota	26-13
Dec. 25	at Miami (Mon.)	13-10
Dec. 31	OAKLAND	23- 3
Jan. 7	at New England	16-37

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 10	ATLANTA (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 17	MINNESOTA (Fri.)	8:00
Aug. 25	at N.Y. Giants (Sat.)	8:00
Aug. 30	at Philadelphia (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 9	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Sep. 16	at Baltimore	4:15
Sep. 23	MIAMI	1:00
Sep. 30	at Buffalo	1:00
Oct. 7	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Oct. 14	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Oct. 21	at Cincinnati	4:05
Oct. 28	BUFFALO	4:05
Nov. 4	WASHINGTON	1:00
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Nov. 22	at Dallas (Thu.)	3:15
Dec. 2	at Miami	1:00
Dec. 9	CLEVELAND	4:15
Dec. 16	at New England	1:00
Dec. 23	at Tennessee	3:15
Dec. 30	KANSAS CITY	8:15

AFC NORTH

DIVISION DIFFERENT WITHOUT COWHER

The resignation of Bill Cowher after 15 seasons as Pittsburgh Steelers coach was the division's biggest news. It left the balance of power up for grabs.

Cowher dominated his division rivals like no other NFL coach. He was 21-5 vs. Cleveland, 22-9 vs. Cincinnati and 14-9 vs. Baltimore for an overall winning percentage of .712 (57-23). That included a 4-0 mark in playoff games.

Mike Tomlin, Cowher's successor, has no experience in the division other than serving a summer internship with the Browns in the 2000 training camp while he was a college position coach. Pittsburgh's previous two coaches in the past 38 years — Cowher and Chuck Noll — each had Cleveland connections.

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Coach Brian Billick earned a four-year contract extension by ending a two-year playoff drought and capturing the division title for the first time. Entering his ninth season, he is now the senior coach in the division.

The Ravens absorbed their annual hits in free agency, losing four starters, including franchise all-time rusher Jamal Lewis. They moved quickly to replace him with Willis McGahee, who has more chance of getting outside. But with left tackle Jonathan Ogden, 33, quarterback Steve McNair, 34, and linebacker Ray Lewis, 32, on the wrong side of 30, the shades are being drawn on Baltimore's window for another Super Bowl title.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

The Bengals reverted to 8-8 — third time in four seasons under coach Marvin Lewis — and then suffered significant losses in free agency and in PR. Repeated arrests the past couple of years tarnished the Bengals as one of the NFL's flagship franchises for player misconduct.

Lewis responded by using his first draft pick on Michigan cornerback Leon Hall, whose character was impeccable. Hall's cover ability was just as badly needed. Lewis' defensive expertise as an assistant coach so far has not transferred to the Bengals.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Mired in bad luck and bad drafting since expansion in 1999, the Browns were aggressive again in the off-season. They will enter training camp with fingers crossed, due to past mishaps. They hope their luck finally changed when fortuitous circumstances allowed them to draft quarterback Brady Quinn after they selected left tackle Joe Thomas with their first pick.

Although the Browns did not change head coaches after a 4-12 season, they overhauled the offense, bringing in five new assistant coaches, a new system, two new cogs in free agency — guard Eric Steinbach and running back Jamal Lewis — and a new quarterback. If nothing else, they created a buzz in town, which was lacking for years.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Mike Tomlin enjoyed hearing people question whether the Steelers would maintain their 3-4 defensive identity after they released venerable outside linebacker Joey Porter. Tomlin comes from the Tony Dungy "Cover 2" coaching tree, which is opposite from the blitzing, single coverage scheme that Pittsburgh played for 15 years under former coach Bill Cowher.

Tomlin tipped his hand when he retained 3-4 godfather Dick LeBeau as coordinator. Then he played more cards when the Steelers used their first two draft picks on players who fit a 3-4 system — Lawrence Timmons of Florida State and LaMarr Woodley of Michigan. The Steelers have changed coaches, not philosophies.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Whom will the Steelers miss more — Bill Cowher or assistant coaches Ken Whisenhunt and Russ Grimm?

Snubbed offensive coordinator Whisenhunt left for the Arizona head coaching job and took Grimm with him to oversee his offensive line. Some with the Steelers felt the offensive staff needed a refresher.

2. Who's likely to succeed Steve McNair as Baltimore's next quarterback — Kyle Boller or rookie draft choice Troy Smith?

Boller, a No. 1 pick in 2003 who failed as a starter, can be a free agent after this season. Smith won the Heisman Trophy for Ohio State, but fell to the fifth round because of concerns about his height. Given Brian Billick's inability to develop young quarterbacks, McNair's ultimate successor may come from free agency.

3. Have the Bengals plateaued under Marvin Lewis?

It sure looks like the 11-5 season in 2005 was as good as it will get. The building blocks of Lewis' upgraded defense — linebackers David Pollack and Odell Thurman — have uncertain futures.

4. When will the fate of Browns coach Romeo Crennel be known?

The first month of the season. Three of the Browns' first four games are against division rivals in Cleveland. Crennel's record inside the division: 1-11.

5. Will Jamal Lewis haunt his former team?

Lewis wanted out of Baltimore, he said, because he felt the Browns had a greater commitment to the run than the Ravens. He will see now that his former team has a greater commitment to stopping the run.

— Tony Grossi

Professional Handicapper
KELSO STURGEON
will prove to you in the month of August just how easy it is to make money betting the NFL Preseason.

"I'm looking for people who will spend $60 to WIN A GUARANTEED $1,000!"

This is NOT a Misprint!

"Spend $60 and win $1,000 in just 4 weeks!"

My name is Kelso Sturgeon and I am a man on a mission–a man who has elevated sports handicapping, and football handicapping in particular, to a higher plane and have proved beyond any doubt that you–**and I mean YOU**–can make a fortune betting sports. It might shock you to know there are a few of us out here who actually win consistently and make money for our clients–& I mean lots of money.

Take last year's season for openers... In the '06 Preseason **I made money for my clients** for the 6th time in 7 years & won the biggest game of them all for the 5th straight year...

My 25-Unit **Preseason Game of the Year**
Giants (-3½) 13, Jets 7
And that was just the beginning!

My **Best Bets Club** produced a **profit of more than $3,000 for $10 bettors.**

- In September I finished **+193 UNITS** for a profit of just under $1,900
- In October I finished **+99 UNITS** for a profit of just under $900
- In November I finished **+30 UNITS** for a profit of just under $300
- In December I finished **+20 UNITS** for a profit of just under $200

I released 44 games rated from 25-to-100 units and went 34-9-1 in those games!

100-Unit Games	4-0-1	**100% WINNERS**
25-Unit Games	15-8-0	**65% WINNERS**
25-Unit Games	12-1-0	**92% WINNERS**
25-Unit Parlays	3-0-1	**100% WINNERS**

79% WINNERS
when the **BIG MONEY** is down!

My **Chairman's Club** won **$12,360** for clients betting at the $100 level!

- My Chairman's Club record was **31-21-1**
- Clients finished the season **PLUS 125 UNITS**
- **And let's not forget the 2-BIG ONES...**

MY COLLEGE GAME OF THE YEAR
September 23 **100 UNITS**
Louisville (-13 ½) 24, Kansas State 6
A GIANT WINNER!

MY NFL GAME OF THE YEAR
October 8 **100 UNITS**
Eagles (-2 ½) 38, Cowboys 24
ANOTHER GIANT WINNER!

My complete record for all services is available at 1-800-755-2255

And this brings me to my **Unconditional Guarantee**

I will win $1,000 for you during the NFL Preseason or you will get all my Best Bet Club college and NFL plays **absolutely free for the month of September!** The guarantee is based on $25-per unit plays.

The NFL Preseason begins with the Hall of Fame Game between the Saints & Steelers on Sunday, 8-5, and ends Saturday, 9-1. And that includes these huge winners...

- **My Preseason Game of the Year**
- **My Preseason Parlay of the Year**
- **My Preseason Underdog of the Year**

Plus you'll receive these free bonuses!

- Subscription to my weekly **Football Forecast**–Filled with more Best Bet Winners, the best college and NFL power ratings in-the-business, stories on how to be a better handicapper, significant betting trends and handicapping hints that point to winners.
- Midweek e-mail newsletter, **The Bettor Line**–This internet newsletter will be on your computer no later than Friday morning of each week and will bring you all the latest information you need to get ready for a successful weekend—things such as injury reports hidden from the general public, where the wiseguys are betting their money and what's behind the big line moves.

Do not miss a single winner!

Sign up today for **just $60** by calling toll free at

1-800-755-2255

Or sign up online at:
www.**KelsoSportsHandicapping**.com

All major credit cards accepted

The price is right...
the guarantee is in place,
& professional handicapper Kelso Sturgeon is going to prove to you that **you can beat this game right from the start!**

Just Who Is Kelso Sturgeon?

1. Kelso Sturgeon has been handicapping successfully for almost four decades and brings to the table the experience required to win in the modern age of football betting and has a proven record of success.

2. Kelso Sturgeon learned what it takes to win in college football while studying at the feet of such great coaches as **Paul "Bear" Bryant** & as a successful player & scout in the SEC.

3. Kelso Sturgeon learned what it takes to win in the NFL while studying with such great coaches as former Kansas City Chief mentor, Hall of Fame coach **Hank Stram**, who shared with him his personal 42-point system of analysis.

4. Kelso Sturgeon is a full-time handicapper and student of football handicapping and has written several books on the subject, including **The Complete Guide To Sports Betting** (Harper & Row). **He is the only handicapper ever to testify before the United States Congress on the subject of sports betting.** You have read about him in such publications as **The Wall Street Journal, Playboy, Maxim**, and the **New York Times**, and have seen him countless times on television analyzing football games.

5. Kelso Sturgeon has developed, literally, a sixth sense that has permitted him to weigh and put every single element of handicapping into proper perspective.

KELSOSTURGEON #206, 3315 E. Russell Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89120-3477

BALTIMORE RAVENS

2006 RECORD: 13-4 | **STADIUM: M&T Bank Stadium, 70,107, Sportexe** | **PROJECTED FINISH: 1st**

AFC NORTH

www.baltimoreravens.com

AT A GLANCE

1 Winning Drive
Owings Mills, MD 21117
(410) 701-4000

TRAINING CAMP:
McDaniel College; Westminster, MD

COACH:
Brian Billick, 9th year with Ravens and as NFL head coach (80-56)

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/ GENERAL MANAGER:
Ozzie Newsome

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
George Kokonis

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Eric DeCosta

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Rick Neuheisel	Offensive coordinator	3	3
Mike Johnson	Receivers	8	2
Tony Nathan	Running backs	16	2
Chris Foerster	*Offensive line	15	3
Greg Roman	Assistant offensive line	13	2
Wade Harman	Tight ends/asst. line	11	9
Jedd Fisch	Asst. receivers/QBs	7	4
Rex Ryan	Defensive coordinator	11	9
Clarence Brooks	Defensive line	15	3
Jeff FitzGerald	Linebackers	14	4
Mike Pettine	Outside linebackers	6	6
Mark Carrier	Secondary	2	2
Dennis Thurman	Secondary	8	6
Frank Gansz Jr.	Special teams	9	2
John Fassel	Special teams assistant	3	3
Jeff Friday	Strength & Conditioning	12	9
Paul Ricci	Strength & Conditioning	6	6

*Assistant head coach

Ravens Enter 2007 With a Super Feeling

In quarterback Steve McNair's first season in Baltimore, the Ravens had one of the biggest turnarounds in the NFL, going from a 6-10 team in 2005 to a 13-3 one last season.

But the best regular season in Ravens' history ended with a divisional playoff loss to the Indianapolis Colts, an abrupt feeling that the Ravens are all-too-familiar with.

The Ravens haven't won a playoff game since 2001, losing their past three post-season games. This year, the Ravens won't be satisfied with just making the playoffs.

"I think we're going to be even more hungry," said McNair, who was traded to the Ravens after 11 seasons with the Tennessee Titans. "We had a good run for the first year I was here. And we're looking for better things."

The Ravens can only hope their big trade this year can work out as well as McNair. Baltimore sent three draft picks (third- and seventh-round picks this year and a third rounder next year) to the Buffalo Bills for running back Willis McGahee, who replaces Jamal Lewis in what has become a sluggish running attack.

The offense hit its stride with coach Brian Billick calling the plays and McNair pulling the trigger. The Ravens' offense finished No. 17, their highest ranking since 2001.

Like most seasons, the defense was the team's backbone, ranking No. 1 in fewest yards and points allowed in the NFL. The only new starter is Jarret Johnson, who replaces All-Pro linebacker Adalius Thomas.

With 18 of 22 starters returning, the Ravens are confident about taking that next step in the playoffs.

"If you don't win a Super Bowl ... it means nothing," receiver Derrick Mason said. "If you can't win a playoff game, all that you've done in the regular season means nothing."

COACHING

Billick regained the respect of his players when he fired offensive coordinator Jim Fassel and took over the play-calling in mid-season. With Billick in charge for the final 10 games, the Ravens scored 24.3 points and produced 344.2 yards per game. He was rewarded with a new four-year contract after the season.

Billick will continue to handle the play-calling, but he promoted Rick Neuheisel from quarterbacks coach to offensive coordinator. Expect the Ravens to be more balanced than previous years and use the play-action to set up the passing game.

The defense reached new heights in the second season under coordinator Rex Ryan. Using schemes that were equally unpredictable and creative, the Ravens achieved the first No. 1 ranking in their illustrious defensive history.

RATING: 8

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
RB Willis McGahee

Instead of having a power running game with Jamal Lewis, the Ravens have more of a slasher in McGahee, who is more of a threat to hit the perimeter and make plays in the passing game.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
None

KEY LOSS:
LB Adalius Thomas (16/16)*
A major reason why the Ravens' defense was so unpredictable in recent years is because offenses didn't know where Thomas would line up. A rare athlete, Thomas could be a playmaker as defensive lineman, linebacker or a safety.

OTHER LOSSES
WR Alex Bannister (2/0), DT Aubrayo Franklin (14/0), LB Tim Johnson (4/0), RB Jamal Lewis (16/16), FB Nicolas Luchey (0/0), FB Ovie Mughelli (16/8), G Edwin Mulitalo (4/4), T Tony Pashos (16/16)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 8 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

QUARTERBACKS

McNair immediately put his fingerprints on the offense. His calm and confident personality was the main reason why the passing attack soared to No. 11 in 2006. He led the team to three fourth-quarter comebacks, silencing the talk that he was no longer a legitimate starting quarterback.

McNair became the true barometer of the team. He threw 15 touchdown passess in 13 wins and passed for one score in three losses. He finished with a career-best completion rate (63 percent), and his passer rating (82.5) and number of completions (295) were the highest since his 2003 co-Most Valuable Player season.

McNair's age (34) and health is always a concern, but Kyle Boller has found his niche as a backup. He replaced an injured McNair twice, throwing five touchdown passes. The Ravens took a flier on Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith with the last pick in the fifth round. It's unknown whether he can be the team's quarterback of the future.

RATING: 8

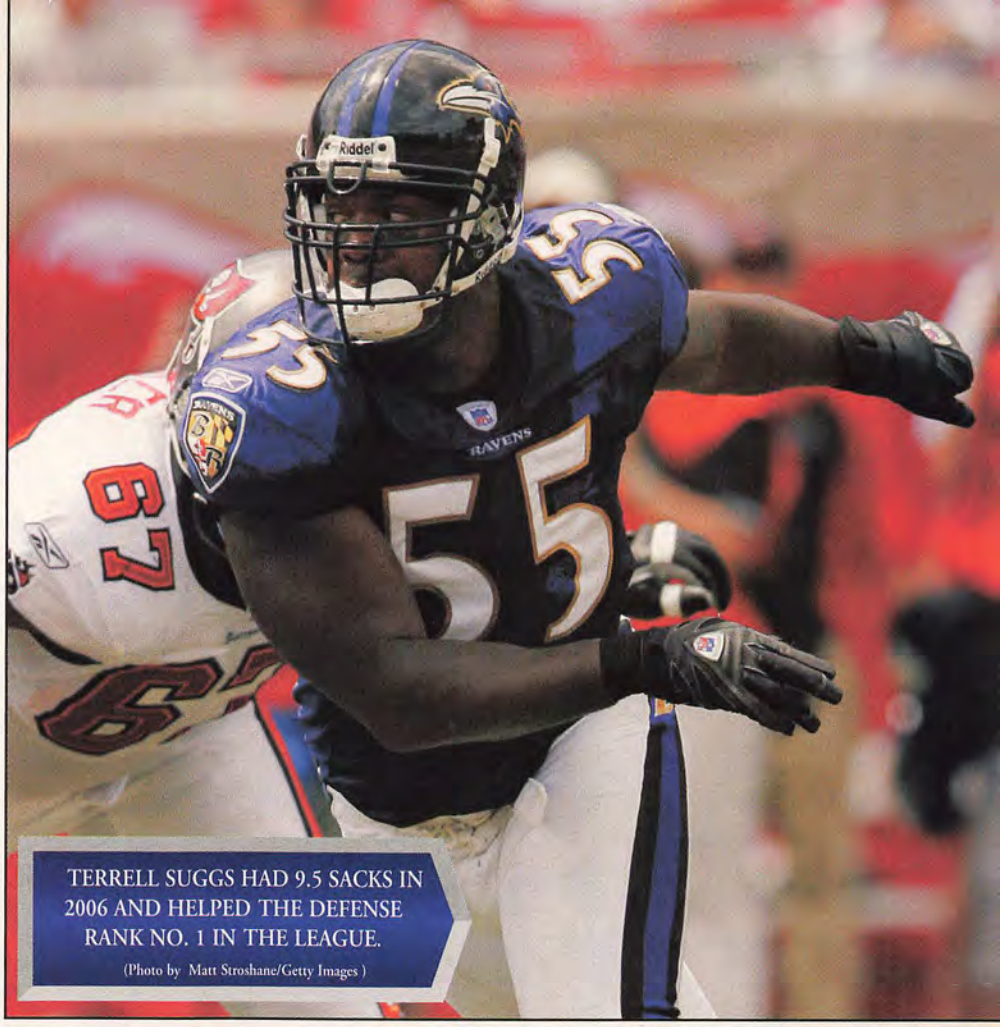
RUNNING BACKS

The Ravens consider McGahee an elite runner and an upgrade over Jamal Lewis, although he has only had a mediocre NFL career so far. In three seasons with the Bills, McGahee averaged 3.9 yards a carry and finished with a career-low 990 yards rushing last season. The Ravens are hoping that McGahee can jumpstart a once dominating running game, which plummeted to 25th in the league last season.

If McGahee is ever sidelined, the Ravens will turn to Mike Anderson, who was a little-used backup in his first season in Baltimore. The team's third-down back is Musa Smith, a talented runner who has finished the past three seasons on injured reserve.

Because McGahee can run out of single-back formations, the Ravens will rely less on the fullback than previous seasons. Le'Ron McClain, one of the draft's top fullbacks, will be the primary lead blocker, and Justin Green is more of a receiving threat.

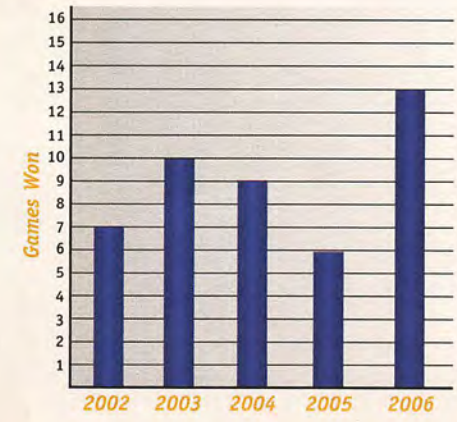
RATING: 7.5



TERRELL SUGGS HAD 9.5 SACKS IN 2006 AND HELPED THE DEFENSE RANK NO. 1 IN THE LEAGUE.

(Photo by Matt Stroshane/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2006*

RECEIVERS

This is the Ravens' deepest receiving group in the Billick era, with three legitimate targets. Mark Clayton stretched the field as the best big-play threat in the offense and could become the No. 1 receiver. Derrick Mason, who complained after the season about being unappreciated, still was second with 68 catches and fills the role as a possession receiver. Demetrius Williams finished his rookie season strong and is the most explosive receiver on the team after the catch.

At tight end, Todd Heap led the Ravens in catches for the first time since 2003. He has made an instant connection with McNair and caught a team-high six touchdown passes. Daniel Wilcox is a solid option as the No. 2 tight end, and Quinn Sypniewski was the perfect fit as a blocking tight end.

RATING: 7.5

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The line only allowed 17 sacks, but it failed to open holes consistently in the running game. After years of stability, this is a group that could feature four new starters. Jason Brown takes over at left guard after Baltimore released Edwin Mulitalo. Adam Terry became the new right tackle when the Ravens were unable to re-sign Tony Pashos in free agency.

The two biggest battles will come in the interior. Ben Grubbs, a first-round pick, is expected to beat out Keydrick Vincent at right guard. But the starting center job will be hotly contested between veteran Mike Flynn and second-year player Chris Chester.

Jonathan Ogden, a 10-time Pro Bowl left tackle, decided to return after contemplating retirement this off-season. It is unknown whether this will be his final season.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Ravens have always believed that nose tackle Kelly Gregg is one of the most underrated players in the NFL, but they were pleasantly surprised with the play of new tackles, Haloti Ngata and Trevor Pryce.

Ngata, a first-round pick in 2006, played better than even what the Ravens expected. Powerful and agile, Ngata was one of the team's top players in the final seven games of the season. Pryce, whose career had declined in Denver, was a dominating presence inside once again. He recorded a team-high 13 sacks after having a combined 12.5 sacks the past three seasons.

Ravens Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
89	**Clayton, Mark**	**5-10**	**195**	**3**	**Oklahoma**	**16/12**	**D1 05**	**D1 BLT 05**	**Could become team's top receiver after making 97 catches in last 23 games.**
81	Darling, Devard	6-1	215	4	Washington State	1/0	D3 04	D3 BLT 04	Big third-round bust has made two catches for five yards in three seasons.
16	Figurs, Yamon (KR)	5-11	175	R	Kansas State	0/0	D3 07	D3 BLT 07	Fastest player at this year's combine might be team's return specialist.
86	**Heap, Todd (TE)**	**6-5**	**252**	**7**	**Arizona State**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 BLT 01**	**Is McNair's top red-zone target after catching team-best six touchdowns.**
85	**Mason, Derrick**	**5-10**	**192**	**11**	**Michigan State**	**16/15**	**FA 05**	**D4 TENN 97**	**Has most reliable hands on team, but complained about lack of catches.**
84	Moore, Clarence	6-6	220	4	Northern Arizona	10/1	D6 04	D6 BLT 04	Role has diminished each season, but his height makes him a red-zone option.
88	Sypniewski, Quinn (TE)	6-6	270	2	Colorado	16/3	D5 06	D5 BLT 06	Strong point of attack blocker makes impact in running game.
83	Wilcox, Daniel (TE)	6-1	245	5	Appalachian State	14/6	FA 04	OFA NYJ 01	Complementary option to Heap who caught a surprising three touchdowns.
87	Williams, Demetrius	6-2	197	2	Oregon	16/0	D4 06	D4 BLT 06	Third wideout is team's most explosive receiver after the catch.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
60	**Brown, Jason (G)**	**6-3**	**320**	**3**	**North Carolina**	**16/12**	**D4 05**	**D4 BLT 05**	**Stepped into starting lineup last year in Week 4 and never lost job.**
65	Chester, Chris (C)	6-3	305	2	Oklahoma	11/4	D2 06	D2 BLT 06	Team's most athletic lineman will compete with Flynn to be starting center.
62	**Flynn, Mike (C)**	**6-3**	**305**	**10**	**Maine**	**16/16**	**FA 97**	**OFA BLT 97**	**His play has steadily, declined; but he remains the line's emotional leader.**
66	**Grubbs, Ben (G)**	**6-3**	**315**	**R**	**Auburn**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 BLT 07**	**Strong, athletic first-round pick should start at right guard this season.**
74	Kracalik, Mike (T)	6-8	337	1	San Diego State	1/0	FA 06	OFA NYJ 05	Former practice squad player has uphill battle to make the team.
63	Ndukwe, Ikechuku (G)	6-4	338	2	Northwestern	5/0	FA 06	OFA NO 05	Played in five games last season, but could be pushed out by increased depth.
75	**Ogden, Jonathan (T)**	**6-9**	**345**	**12**	**UCLA**	**14/14**	**D1 96**	**D1 BLT 96**	**Decided to forgo retirement this season, but could this year be his last?**
69	*Rimpf, Brian (G)	6-5	319	3	East Carolina	0/0	FA 04	D7 BLT 04	Average backup suffered season-ending hamstring injury in training camp.
78	**Terry, Adam (T)**	**6-8**	**330**	**3**	**Syracuse**	**15/2**	**D2 05**	**D2 BLT 05**	**Former second-round pick will replace Tony Pashos as starting right tackle.**
68	Vincent, Keydrick (G)	6-5	325	7	Mississippi	12/12	UFA, PITT 05	OFA PITT 01	Needs to outplay Grubbs in training camp to hold onto starting job.
73	Yanda, Marshall (T/G)	6-3	310	R	Iowa	0/0	D3 07	D3 BLT 07	Intriguing third-round pick could be future starter at right tackle.
RUNNING BACKS									
38	Anderson, Mike	6-0	230	8	Utah	16/0	FA 06	D6 DEN 00	Surprisingly made little impact as backup, receiving only 39 carries.
30	Daniels, P.J.	5-10	214	2	Georgia Tech	0/0	D4 06	D4 BLT 06	Wasn't active for a game last season, but team is high on his potential.
33	*Green, Justin (FB)	5-11	251	3	Montana	12/3	D5 05	D5 BLT 05	Athletic fullback who is more of a receiving threat than a blocking weapon.
37	**McClain, Le'Ron (FB)**	**6-0**	**260**	**R**	**Alabama**	**0/**	**D4 07**	**D4 BLT 07**	**Fourth-round pick is expected to replace Ovie Mughelli as lead blocker.**
23	**McGahee, Willis**	**6-0**	**232**	**4**	**Miami**	**14/14**	**T,BUFF 07**	**D1 BUFF 03**	**Team's biggest acquisition of the off-season should jump-start running game.**
34	Ross, Cory	5-6	201	2	Nebraska	4/0	OFA 06	OFA BLT 06	Former undrafted rookie flopped late in the season as return specialist.
32	*Smith, Musa	6-0	232	5	Georgia	12/0	D3 03	D3 BLT 03	Injury-prone talent likely will be team's third-down back this season.
QUARTERBACKS									
7	Boller, Kyle	6-3	220	5	California	4/0	D1 03	D1 BLT 03	Unhappy in backup role; expected to go elsewhere after season.
9	**McNair, Steve**	**6-2**	**230**	**13**	**Alcorn State**	**16/16**	**T,TENN 06**	**D1 TENN 95**	**Can the 13-year veteran duplicate last season's success and durability?**
11	Smith, Troy	6-0	225	R	Ohio State	0/0	D5 07	D5 BLT 07	Heisman Trophy winner needs to show he can play despite lack of height.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
94	*Bannan, Justin (T)	6-3	310	6	Colorado	12/1	UFA,BUFF 06	D5 BUFF 02	Solid and stout backup is coming off season-ending toe injury.
93	Edwards, Dwan (T)	6-3	315	4	Oregon State	8/0	D2 04	D2 BLT 04	Disappointing second-round pick has role in team's line rotation.
72	Ellison, Atiyyah (T)	6-3	318	2	Missouri	0/0	FA 06	D3 CARO 05	Third-round bust from Panthers was inactive for three games last season.
97	**Gregg, Kelly (NT)**	**6-0**	**310**	**7**	**Oklahoma**	**16/16**	**FA 01**	**D6 CIN 99**	**Most underrated player on defense quietly makes plays on interior.**
71	King, Kenny (T)	6-4	291	4	Alabama	0/0	FA 06	D5 ARIZ 03	Trying to make Ravens after injury-riddled career with Cardinals.
92	**Ngata, Haloti (E)**	**6-4**	**340**	**2**	**Oregon**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 BLT 06**	**2006 first-round pick exceeded expectations, playing with speed and power.**
90	**Pryce, Trevor (E)**	**6-5**	**286**	**11**	**Clemson**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D1 DEN 97**	**Reversed declining career in Denver and became a pass-rushing force inside.**
LINEBACKERS									
50	Barnes, Antwan (O)	6-1	240	R	Florida International	0/0	D4 07	D4 BLT 07	Fourth-round pick set Florida International record with 23 career sacks.
54	Burgess, Prescott (I)	6-3	240	R	Michigan	0/0	D6 07	D6 BLT 07	Limited as defensive player, but is projected to play on special teams.
53	*Cody, Dan (O)	6-5	255	3	Oklahoma	2/0	D2 05	D2 BLT 05	Has yet to finish a season healthy, but could make impact as a pass rusher.
58	Haley, Dennis (I)	6-1	247	2	Virginia	9/0	FA 06	OFA NYJ 05	Athletic backup proved to be a liability against power running teams.
95	**Johnson, Jarret (O)**	**6-3**	**270**	**5**	**Alabama**	**16/2**	**D4 03**	**D4 BLT 03**	**Career backup promoted to starter to replace versatile Adalius Thomas.**
	Johnson, Tim (I)	6-0	245	5	Youngstown State	4/0	UFA,OAK 06	OFA BLT 01	Journeyman has found niche in the league as solid special teams performer; might be re-signed.
52	**Lewis, Ray (I)**	**6-1**	**250**	**12**	**Miami**	**14/14**	**D1 96**	**D1 BLT 96**	**Not the dominating playmaker anymore, but still is centerpiece of defense.**
57	**Scott, Bart (I)**	**6-2**	**240**	**6**	**Southern Illinois**	**16/16**	**OFA 02**	**OFA BLT 02**	**Finished first season as full-time starter; considered future of defense.**
51	*Smith, Mike (I)	6-1	235	3	Texas Tech	8/0	FA 05	D7 BLT 05	Hard-hitting reserve can make impact as special teams player.
56	Stills, Gary (O)	6-2	250	9	West Virginia	16/0	FA 06	D3 KC 99	Led NFL with 44 tackles on special teams, two shy of league record.
55	**Suggs, Terrell (O)**	**6-3**	**260**	**5**	**Arizona State**	**16/15**	**D1 03**	**D1 BLT 03**	**Recorded 40 sacks in four seasons, third-highest total in team history.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
35	Ivy, Corey (CB)	5-9	188	6	Oklahoma	13/0	UFA,STL 06	OFA NE 99	Aggressive and physical veteran looking to hold onto nickel back job.
26	**Landry, Dawan (S)**	**6-0**	**220**	**2**	**Georgia Tech**	**16/14**	**D5 06**	**D5 BLT 06**	**Fifth-round pick was team's biggest surprise starter last season.**
29	Martin, Derrick (CB)	5-10	202	2	Wyoming	9/0	D6 06	D6 BLT 06	Sixth-round pick played more of a role on special teams than defense.
21	**McAlister, Chris (CB)**	**6-1**	**206**	**9**	**Arizona**	**16/16**	**D1 99**	**D1 BLT 99**	**Pro Bowl defender can be a shutdown cornerback when he's focused.**
25	Oglesby, Evan (CB)	5-10	185	2	North Alabama	16/0	FA 05	OFA BUFF 05	Spot starter finished as team's third-leading tackler on special teams.
24	Pittman, David (CB)	5-11	182	2	Northwestern State	0/0	D3 06	D3 BLT 06	Big disappointment as third-round pick; might not get on the field this season.
27	Prude, Ronnie (CB)	5-11	178	2	Louisiana State	15/0	OFA 06	OFA BLT 06	Undrafted rookie will continue to have role in team's dime package.
20	**Reed, Ed (S)**	**5-11**	**200**	**6**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 BLT 02**	**Former Defensive Player of the Year has 27 interceptions since 2002.**
22	**Rolle, Samari (CB)**	**6-0**	**175**	**10**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D2 TENN 98**	**Overcame disastrous first half of the season to regain confidence late.**
36	*Sams, B.J. (KR)	5-10	185	4	McNeese State	12/0	OFA 04	OFA BLT 04	Off-the-field troubles could cause him to lose return specialist job.
42	Sapp, Gerome (S)	6-1	216	5	Notre Dame	15/1	T,IND 06	D6 BLT 03	Lost starting job in training camp and has been relegated to special teams.
28	Winborne, Jamaine	5-10	202	1	Virginia	1/0	FA 06	OFA NYG 04	Annual bubble player needs to prove he can make impact on special teams.
SPECIALISTS									
70	Katula, Matt (LS)	6-6	272	3	Wisconsin	16/0	OFA 05	OFA BLT 05	Consistent performer has gained the trust of Stover and Koch.
4	Koch, Sam (P)	6-1	230	2	Nebraska	16/0	D6 06	D6 BLT 06	Rookie dropped 12 punts inside the 10-yard line (second-most in NFL).
3	Stover, Matt (K)	5-11	178	18	Louisiana Tech	16/0	PB,NYG 91	D12 NYG 90	Reliable veteran has made the most field goals (300) in the NFL since 1996.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; PB=Plan B.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Romby Bryant (1, Tulsa), Damien Linson (Central Michigan), Matt Willis (UCLA); TEs Rob Abiamiri (1, Maryland), Kendrick Ballantyne (Northeastern), Marcus Freeman (Notre Dame); OT Chris Pino (1, San Diego State); RB Greg Pruitt, Jr. (North Carolina Central); QB Drew Olson (1, UCLA); DE's Edgar Jones (Southeast Missouri State), Travis Leitko (Notre Dame); DTs Andrew Powell (Mississippi State), Lawrence Wilson (Hawaii); LBs Jimmy Cottrell (1, New Mexico), Joe Martin (San Diego State); CBs Willie Gaston (Houston), Terrell Maze (San Diego State); S Donnie Johnson (Penn State); LS Nick Leeson (Virginia Tech); PK James Wilhoit (Tennessee); P Brendan Carney (Syracuse)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Billick's effect on the offense. The Ravens regularly scored over 20 points in the last nine games after Billick took over the play-calling. But Baltimore didn't score an offensive touchdown in the season finale or in the playoff loss to Indianapolis.

*McNair's production. McNair quieted critics by leading three fourth-quarter comebacks and finishing with a career-best completion rate (63 percent). But he was motivated to show the Titans they were wrong in giving up on him. It'll be interesting to see if he can be equally as driven for a second season.

*A new playmaker on defense. The Ravens lost only one starter to their defense, but All-Pro linebacker Adalius Thomas was their most dependable playmaker. He took over that role when linebacker Ray Lewis and safety Ed Reed failed to deliver big plays. The Ravens need someone to step up and fill that void.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Jarret Johnson

On the day Adalius Thomas left for the New England Patriots, the Ravens immediately signed his replacement, showing their faith in long-time backup Jarret Johnson.

The pressure will be on Johnson because he is the only new starter on the NFL's reigning top-ranked defense.

The hope is that the former fourth-round pick could follow Bart Scott as another backup who flourishes in a starting role. Known for his grit and high motor, Johnson has led all Ravens backups in tackles the past two seasons.

"Jarret has been another guy that has been very productive for us in a lot of roles," general manager Ozzie Newsome said. "This allows him the opportunity now to become a solid starter for us."

Like Thomas — though not necessarily in the same class — Johnson found a niche in the defense with his versatility. Whenever the Ravens had a starter go down at defensive end, outside linebacker or inside linebacker, they would promote Johnson into the lineup.

Now, Johnson doesn't have to be the Ravens' utility man any longer.

"That's a big thing. I can focus on one job," said Johnson, who is considered one of the most underrated pass rushers on the team. "I enjoyed what I did before, but this is exciting."

Gregg, who received a four-year contract extension, is one of the team's hardest workers, using leverage to hold his ground. Justin Bannan and Dwan Edwards are adequate backups.

RATING: 8

LINEBACKERS

Even without Thomas, the Ravens have one of the most talented linebacker tandems in the NFL. Ray Lewis, Bart Scott and Terrell Suggs were all named to the Pro Bowl last season. The breakout performer was Scott, who became the hardest hitter on defense in his first full season as a starter. He has become more of a force inside than Lewis.

Lewis' play has declined over the past couple of seasons. Still, with him in the starting lineup, the Ravens haven't allowed 100 yards to a running back in 15 regular-season home games. Suggs, who was selected to his second Pro Bowl, is a strong pass rusher, but has improved against the run.

The Ravens re-signed Jarret Johnson to replace Thomas, who signed with the New England Patriots in free agency. Johnson isn't as athletic as Thomas, but he plays with a high motor.

RATING: 9

SECONDARY

The secondary lived up to its potential, intercepting 22 passes last season. Cornerback Chris McAlister started and finished strong, leading the Ravens with six interceptions and running back two for touchdowns. Free safety Ed Reed was a ballhawk in pass defense and aggressive against the run.

Strong safety Dawan Landry was the surprise starter as a rookie and was the thumper that the Ravens have always wanted. Cornerback Samari Rolle was the weak link of the secondary and was picked on deep by quarterbacks. Corey Ivy was a key free-agent pickup, who filled the void at nickel back.

RATING: 9

SPECIAL TEAMS

Matt Stover finished as the most accurate field-goal kicker in the NFL, hitting 28 of 30 attempts. Punter Sam Koch didn't play like a rookie, showing solid leg strength and the ability to pin teams inside the 20-yard line. Matt Katula remained a consistent long snapper. The only change could come at return specialist. The Ravens drafted Yamon Figurs, the fastest player at the NFL combine, in the third round. He will compete against B.J. Sams, who broke his ankle in November but could be ready for training camp.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

The players acknowledge that this team is growing old and the time to win is now. There's a strong sense of urgency on the Ravens.

RATING: Plus 1

— Jamison Hensley

2006 RESULTS

Record: 13-4

Sep. 10	at Tampa Bay	27- 0
Sep. 17	OAKLAND	28 -6
Sep. 24	at Cleveland	15-14
Oct. 1	SAN DIEGO	16-13
Oct. 9	at Denver	3-13
Oct. 15	CAROLINA	21-23
Oct. 22	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	at New Orleans	35-22
Nov. 5	CINCINNATI	26-20
Nov. 12	at Tennessee	27-26
Nov. 19	ATLANTA	24-10
Nov. 26	PITTSBURGH	27- 0
Nov. 30	at Cincinnati	7-13
Dec. 10	at Kansas City	20-10
Dec. 17	CLEVELAND	27-17
Dec. 24	at Pittsburgh	31- 7
Dec. 31	BUFFALO	19- 7
Jan. 13	INDIANAPOLIS	6-15

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 13	PHILADELPHIA (Mon.)	7:00
Aug. 19	N.Y. GIANTS (Sun.)	8:00
Aug. 25	at Washington (Sat.)	8:00
Aug. 31	at Atlanta (Fri.)	7:30
Sep. 10	at Cincinnati (Mon.)	7:00
Sep. 16	N.Y. JETS	4:15
Sep. 23	ARIZONA	1:00
Sep. 30	at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 7	at San Francisco	1:15
Oct. 14	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Oct. 21	at Buffalo	1:00
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 5	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	8:30
Nov. 11	CINCINNATI	4:05
Nov. 18	CLEVELAND	1:00
Nov. 25	at San Diego	1:15
Dec. 3	NEW ENGLAND (Mon.)	8:30
Dec. 9	INDIANAPOLIS	8:15
Dec. 16	at Miami	1:00
Dec. 23	at Seattle	1:15
Dec. 30	PITTSBURGH	1:00

CINCINNATI BENGALS

2006 RECORD: 8-8 | STADIUM: Paul Brown Stadium, 65,500, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

AFC NORTH | www.bengals.com

AT A GLANCE

One Paul Brown Stadium
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 621-3550

TRAINING CAMP:
Georgetown College; Georgetown, KY

COACH:
Marvin Lewis, 5th year with Bengals and as NFL head coach (35-30)

PRESIDENT:
Mike Brown

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/ PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Pete Brown

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:
Katie Blackburn

VICE PRESIDENT:
Troy Blackburn

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Jim Lippincott

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Duke Tobin

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Bob Bratkowski	Offensive coordinator	16	7
Ken Zampese	Quarterbacks	10	5
Paul Alexander	*Offensive line	16	14
Bob Surace	Assistant line	6	6
Jim Anderson	Running backs	24	24
Jonathan Hayes	Tight ends	5	5
Mike Sheppard	Receivers	14	1
Chuck Bresnahan	Defensive coordinator	14	4
Jay Hayes	Defensive line	9	5
Ricky Hunley	Linebackers	6	5
Kevin Coyle	Secondary	7	7
Louie Cioffi	Assistant secondary	13	11
Darrin Simmons	Special teams	11	5
Chip Morton	Strength & Conditioning	16	5
Ray Oliver	Strength & Conditioning	5	4
Paul Guenther	Staff assistant	3	3

*Assistant head coach

Bengals Hope to Put Disappointing 2006 Behind Them

For the second year in a row, the Cincinnati Bengals ended the season with a bitter taste. After 2005, the focus was whether franchise quarterback Carson Palmer could come back from a serious injury suffered early in the playoff loss to Pittsburgh. In 2006, the Bengals lost their last three games, when only one was needed to secure an AFC wild-card berth, leaving open the question whether Marvin Lewis' core players had the right stuff to make a deep playoff run.

For the third time in four seasons under Lewis, the Bengals finished 8-8. That was progress in 2003 and 2004, the first two seasons of Lewis' rebuilding program. In 2006, .500 was stagnation at best and, at worst, a slide.

Palmer has excellent talent around him in a pair of 1,000-yard receivers, Chad Johnson and T.J. Houshmandzadeh, and a 1,300-yard runner in Rudi Johnson. But the defense limped home with a 30th overall ranking and was tied for last in passing yards. As was the case heading into 2006, the Bengals will go only as far in 2007 as their defense allows.

COACHING

Management remains happy with Lewis and his staff, though the fan base is getting itchy. Lewis, to his credit, has accepted the pressure to lift his team off the .500 plateau. He was true to his word and stayed away from questionable characters in the draft. There was only one change in what ranks among the league's most stable staff. Wide receivers coach Mike Sheppard replaces Hue Jackson, now Atlanta's offensive coordinator.

Heading into his third full season as coordinator and fourth season on the staff, Chuck Bresnahan has to deliver some results.

Lewis' internal message is obvious: In every area of playing and coaching, everybody has to do a better job.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

The Bengals are Palmer's team. He rebounded from the knee injury to start all 16 games and become the first in franchise history to throw for more than 4,000 yards. He aims to lift his completion percentage five points from 62.3. Doug Johnson will be the top backup after the free agency departure of Anthony Wright to the Giants. The Bengals used their fifth-round pick on Nevada's Jeff Rowe and will develop him in their system. The sense now is that it doesn't really matter who backs-up Palmer; like with Jim Sorgi in Indianapolis behind Peyton Manning, there will be a significant distance that can't be closed.

RATING: 9

RUNNING BACKS

Rudi Johnson ran for another 1,300 yards in 2006 and has rushed for 4,200 yards in three seasons as the starter. The Bengals went to the produc-

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
CB Leon Hall

Cornerback Leon Hall looks ready to help immediately as the nickel back and challenge for a starting job. More important, he can tackle in run support and won't get in trouble off the field.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
CB Blue Adams, LB Ed Hartwell, DT Michael Myers, C Alex Stepanovich

KEY LOSS:
LB Brian Simmons (11/8)*
Though he had slowed and started to suffer injuries in his ninth season, linebacker Brian Simmons was a dependable pro. He was released and signed with New Orleans. The Bengals are inexperienced at linebacker.

OTHER LOSSES
CB Rashad Bauman (0/0), C Rich Braham (2/2), CB Tory James (16/16), S Kevin Kaesviharn (14/7), S Anthony Mitchell (0/0), G Eric Steinbach (16/16), TE Tony Stewart (16/3), WR Kelley Washington (5/1), LB Marcus Wilkins (16/0), QB Anthony Wright (4/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 10 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

tive well of Auburn running backs to select Kenny Irons in the second round with the 49th overall pick. Despite glaring needs anywhere on defense, the Bengals' grabbed Irons because they're not sure when and if Chris Perry can return. He is trying to rehab from ankle and fibula injuries that required surgery. He will not be ready for training camp.

Irons provides some of the outside speed and receiving ability that Perry clearly has when healthy. The Bengals also need to reduce Johnson's workload. Rock-solid pro Kenny Watson re-signed as an unrestricted free agent, and he and Irons are expected to compete for the third-down role. Fullback Jeremi Johnson received Pro Bowl alternate recognition in 2006 and is a key player in the offense as Rudi Johnson's lead blocker and a good receiver out of the backfield.

RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

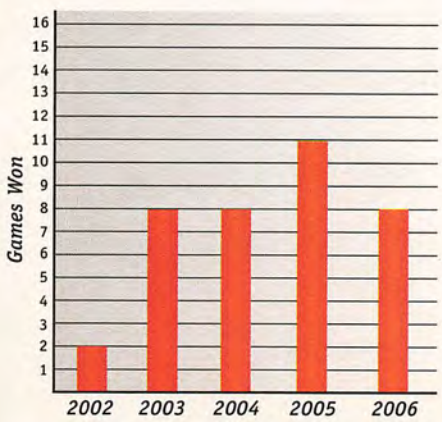
Third receiver Chris Henry will not be available for eight games following his suspension by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. Wide receiver is one position group where the Bengals can weather such a loss. Tab Perry (hip) and Antonio Chatman (groin) return from injuries that essentially cost them all of 2006. They'll work in combination with the likes of second-year receivers Bennie Brazell, Glenn Holt and Reggie McNeal to round out a strong group behind starters Chad Johnson and Houshmandzadeh.

Lewis has said he wants stronger down-field blocking from receivers in the run game.

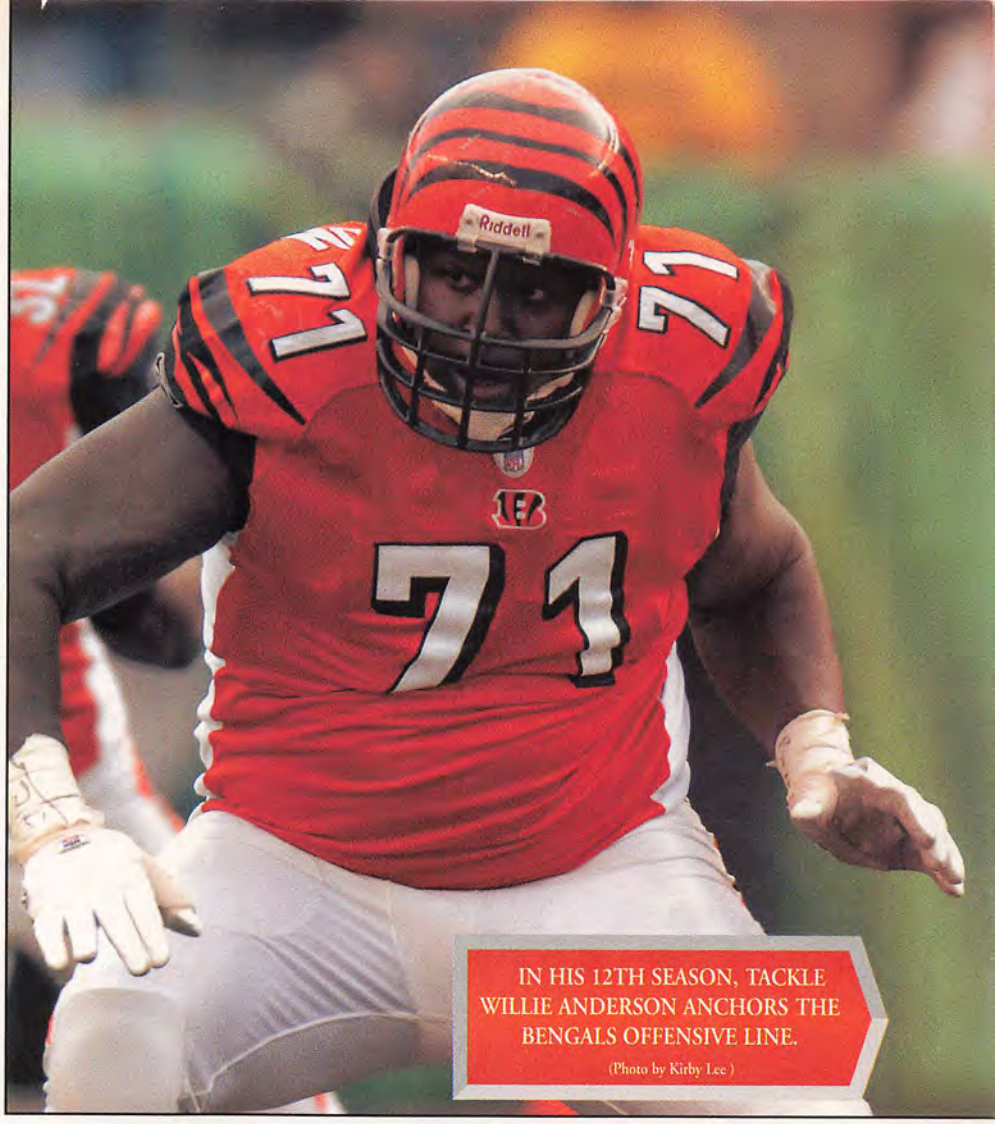
In addition to lobbying for Watson's return, Palmer made a point of going public for the team to re-sign tight end Reggie Kelly. They did. Palmer called Kelly and asked him to take the lower offer to come back. He did. Kelly is an adequate receiver, but excels as a selfless blocker in an offense filled with stat-sheet reading skilled players.

RATING 9

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2005*



IN HIS 12TH SEASON, TACKLE WILLIE ANDERSON ANCHORS THE BENGALS OFFENSIVE LINE.

(Photo by Kirby Lee)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Not long ago, the Bengals suffered from a huge drop in talent from their starters to backups on the offensive line. No longer. The Bengals should be able to transition from the loss of left guard Eric Steinbach and the retirement of center Rich Braham because they've drafted well in the past few years.

Andrew Whitworth, who gained invaluable experience at left tackle as a rookie in place of injured Levi Jones, is expected to replace Steinbach at left guard. But Stacy Andrews will challenge Whitworth. The Bengals will need Jones to put knee problems behind him. Eric Ghiaciuc, another draft pick who started 13 games in Braham's place last season, will face spirited competition from Ben Wilkerson and recently-acquired Alex Stepanovich. The power run plays go right, behind guard Bobbie Williams and tackle Willie Anderson. To their credit, the Bengals kept Williams, Anderson and Jones by re-signing them to long-term extensions in 2006 before they could have tested free agency in March 2007.

RATING: 8

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

End Robert Geathers was rewarded with a contract extension for becoming the first Bengals defender since Alfred Williams in 1992 to reach double-digit sacks (10.5). Starting right end Justin Smith is eating up $8.64 million in salary cap space as a franchise player. He signed his one-year tender in May.

The line might be the iffiest position on the team. Tackles John Thornton, Sam Adams and Michael Myers, as well as swingman Bryan Robinson, are at the end of their careers. Besides Geathers and the consistent Smith, the only real bright spot here is second-year tackle Domata Peko, who can stuff the run with some consistency.

RATING: 7

LINEBACKERS

After starting seven middle linebackers in four seasons, the Bengals are hoping that one of those seven, second-year player Ahmad Brooks, can stabilize this key position. A third-round pick in the July 2006 supplemental draft and the reason the Bengals didn't have one April 28, Brooks was serious off the field and on it as a rookie. He made five starts and gained 11 games of experience. Coaches consider him a first-round talent gotten in the third round. They might be right.

The Bengals have also added veteran Ed

Bengals Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
81	*Brazell, Bennie (KR)	6-0	176	2	Louisiana State	0/0	D7 06	D7 CIN 06	Former track star might be counted on to provide deep threat with speed.
83	*Chatman, Antonio (KR)	5-8	182	5	Cincinnati	3/0	FA 03	OFA SF 01	Will have chance to win punt return job, challenge for third receiver.
18	Green, Skyler (KR)	5-9	190	2	Louisiana State	2/0	W,DALL 06	D4 DALL 06	Another body with opportunity to prove himself in crowded position; also on special teams.
89	Guenther, Gregg (TE)	6-8	255	2	Southern Cal	0/0	FA 07	OFA TENN 05	Already with some NFL experience, he has chance to win role as No. 2 tight end.
15	Henry, Chris	6-4	200	3	West Virginia	13/4	D3 05	D3 CIN 05	Will miss first eight games due to suspension by commissioner Roger Goodell.
16	Holt, Glenn	6-1	193	2	Kentucky	11/0	FA 06	OFA CIN 06	Caught attention of coaches with solid preparation, performance as kickoff return man.
84	**Houshmandzadeh, T.J.**	**6-1**	**199**	**7**	**Oregon State**	**14/13**	**D7 01**	**D7 CIN 01**	**Talented No. 2 receiver eclipsed 1,000 receiving yards for first time of career in 2006.**
85	**Johnson, Chad**	**6-1**	**192**	**7**	**Oregon State**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 CIN 01**	**Pro Bowler must lift game and avoid late-season production slump this season.**
82	**Kelly, Reggie (TE)**	**6-4**	**255**	**9**	**Mississippi State**	**16/16**	**UFA,ATL 03**	**D2 ATL 99**	**Excellent blocker, underrated receiver, took less money to stay with Bengals.**
10	McNeal, Reggie	6-2	205	2	Texas A&M	7/0	D6 06	D6 CIN 06	Needs to stay out of trouble, advance skills as route runner, receiver.
88	*Perry, Tab	6-3	208	3	UCLA	2/0	D6 05	D6 CIN 05	Special teams ace will have opportunity to expand offensive role as No. 3 receiver.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
71	**Anderson, Willie (T)**	**6-5**	**340**	**12**	**Auburn**	**16/16**	**D1 96**	**D1 CIN 96**	**Continues to play at amazingly high level heading into 12th NFL season.**
79	Andrews, Stacy (G)	6-7	342	4	Mississippi	16/3	D4 04	D4 CIN 04	Fourth-round draft project from 2004 has delivered on athleticism, great promise.
53	**Ghiaciuc Eric (C)**	**6-4**	**302**	**3**	**Central Michigan**	**15/13**	**D4 05**	**D4 CIN 05**	**Will be pushed to repeat as starting center by Ben Wilkerson, Alex Stepanovich.**
76	**Jones, Levi (T)**	**6-5**	**307**	**6**	**Arizona State**	**6/5**	**D1 02**	**D1 CIN 02**	**Bengals need highly-paid left tackle to avoid injuries, be on field and produce.**
70	*Kieft, Adam (T)	6-7	328	3	Central Michigan	0/0	D5 05	D5 CIN 05	Showed talent two years ago before serious training camp knee injury.
75	Kooistra, Scott (G)	6-6	320	5	North Carolina State	15/0	D7 03	D7 CIN 03	Re-signed as UFA and provides depth at guard and tackle; has toughness and mean streak.
73	Reuber, Alan (T)	6-6	307	2	Texas A&M	0/0	FA 07	OFA MINN 04	Practice-squad fodder is getting experience and honing skills in NFL Europa as starter.
65	Santucci, Dan (C)	6-4	301	R	Notre Dame	0/	D7 07	D7 CIN 07	Played a lot of games at Notre Dame and could make his way onto practice squad.
69	Stepanovich, Alex (C)	6-4	312	4	Ohio State	5/5	FA 07	D4 ARIZ 04	One of team's only off-season free-agent pickups will challenge for starting job.
77	**Whitworth, Andrew (G/T)**	**6-7**	**339**	**2**	**Louisiana State**	**16/12**	**D2 06**	**D2 CIN 06**	**Is expected to win the job at left guard over Andrews to replace departed Eric Steinbach.**
64	Wilkerson, Ben (C)	6-4	305	2	Louisiana State	2/0	OFA 05	OFA CIN 05	Former top college prospect has climbed back from serious knee injury at Louisiana State.
63	**Williams, Bobbie (G)**	**6-4**	**345**	**8**	**Arkansas**	**13/13**	**UFA,PHA 04**	**D2 PHA 00**	**Bengals like to run power plays behind Williams and Anderson on right side.**
RUNNING BACKS									
30	Irons, Kenny	5-11	203	R	Auburn	0/0	D2 07	D2 CIN 07	Rookie second-round pick has quickness, speed to provide change-up to Rudi Johnson.
31	**Johnson, Jeremi (FB)**	**5-11**	**260**	**5**	**Western Kentucky**	**16/11**	**D4 03**	**D4 CIN 03**	**Steady blocking back never complains and makes most of opportunities to catch ball.**
32	**Johnson, Rudi**	**5-10**	**214**	**7**	**Auburn**	**16/15**	**D4 01**	**D4 CIN 01**	**Featured back finally will get some help this season from fellow Auburn alum Kenny Irons.**
23	*Perry, Chris	6-0	224	4	Michigan	6/1	D1 04	D1 CIN 04	Team not sure talented, injury-prone back can get back soon enough from ankle, fibula injuries.
33	Watson, Kenny	6-0	218	6	Penn State	16/0	FA 03	OFA WSH 01	Re-signed as UFA to three-year deal as steady third-down back and special teams contributor.
20	*Whitehead, Terrence	5-10	215	2	Oregon	0/0	OFA 06	OFA CIN 06	A hard-nosed runner, who has low center of gravity and is tough to bring down.
35	Wilson, Quincy	5-9	220	2	West Virginia	3/0	FA 06	D7 ATL 04	Could challenge for roster spot because of willingness to play special teams.
QUARTERBACKS									
11	Johnson, Doug	6-2	218	7	Florida	0/0	FA 06	05 OFA ATL 00	Has been appointed top backup to starter Palmer; now in his second season in system.
9	**Palmer, Carson**	**6-5**	**230**	**5**	**Southern Cal**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 CIN 03**	**Became first Bengals QB to throw for 4,000 yards in single season; healthy after knee injury.**
3	Rowe, Jeff	6-5	226	R	Nevada	0/0	D5 07	D5 CIN 07	Rookie fifth-round pick will be developed as possible long-term backup to Palmer.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
95	**Adams, Sam (T)**	**6-4**	**350**	**14**	**Texas A&M**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D1 SEA 94**	**Veteran tackle played better late in season, but needs to come into camp in playing shape.**
68	Fanene, Jonathan (E)	6-4	295	3	Utah	4/0	D7 05	D7 CIN 05	Has been slowed by hamstring and other injuries, otherwise productive.
91	Geathers, Robert (E)	6-3	265	4	Georgia	16/0	D4 04	D4 CIN 04	Pass-rush specialist had 10.5 sacks in 2006 and earned big contract extension.
96	Myers, Michael (T)	6-2	300	10	Alabama	16/16	UFA,DEN 07	D4 DALL 98	Veteran will add experience, run-stopping ability to rotation at tackle.
94	Peko, Domata (T)	6-3	319	2	Michigan State	16/1	D4 06	D4 CIN 06	Bright light in line showed balance, strength in middle of line as rookie against run.
98	**Robinson, Bryan (E)**	**6-4**	**304**	**11**	**Fresno State**	**16/16**	**UFA,MIA 05**	**OFA STL 97**	**Can play end and tackle and provided level of consistent play in 2006.**
92	*Rucker, Frostee (E)	6-3	267	2	Southern Cal	0/0	D3 06	D3 CIN 06	Has yet to show why the Bengals invested third-round draft pick in him in 2006.
90	**Smith, Justin (E)**	**6-4**	**275**	**7**	**Missouri**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 CIN 01**	**Eating a ton of salary-cap space ($8.64 million) as franchise player; plays hard every down.**
97	**Thornton, John (T)**	**6-3**	**297**	**9**	**West Virginia**	**15/15**	**UFA,TENN 03**	**D2 TENN 99**	**Has played steady, but not spectacularly; should be producing more for money.**
66	Toeaina, Matt (T)	6-2	307	R	Oregon	0/0	D6 07	D6 CIN 07	Rookie has low center of gravity, third Samoan on roster (Fanene, Peko).
LINEBACKERS									
50	**Brooks, Ahmad (M)**	**6-3**	**259**	**2**	**Virginia**	**11/5**	**SD3 07**	**SD3 CIN 07**	**Second-year player is being given opportunity to win starting job at middle linebacker.**
46	Everett, Earl (O)	6-3	238	R	Florida	0/0	OFA 07	OFA CIN 07	Rookie free agent caught Marvin Lewis' attention at workout, rehabbing ankle and hamstring.
57	Frazier, Andre (O)	6-5	234	3	Cincinnati	11/0	FA 06	OFA PITT 05	Special teams player all the way, and a pretty good one; roster spot in jeopardy.
	Hartwell, Edgerton (O)	6-1	250	7	Western Illinois	8/8	FA 07	D4 BLT 01	Veteran expected to provide leadership, stability on weak side for young position group.
93	**Jeanty, Rashad (O)**	**6-3**	**245**	**2**	**Central Florida**	**12/9**	**FA 06**	**FA CIN 06**	**Likely starter on strong side after good rookie year; played in Canada for three years.**
59	**Johnson, Landon (O)**	**6-2**	**228**	**4**	**Purdue**	**16/16**	**D3 04**	**D3 CIN 04**	**Steady fourth-year player could be be weak-side starter if Hartwell falters.**
58	Miller, Caleb (M)	6-3	225	4	Arkansas	16/7	D3 04	D3 CIN 04	Solid special teams cover man also can play inside, pushing Brooks for middle job.
52	Nicholson, A.J. (M)	6-1	240	2	Florida State	2/0	D5 06	D5 CIN 06	Needs to stay out of trouble off the field and make team as special teams cover man.
99	*Pollack, David (O)	6-2	255	3	Georgia	2/1	D1 05	D1 CIN 05	Trying to come back from fractured vertebrae, but probably won't see field this year.
51	*Thurman, Odell (M)	6-0	236	2	Georgia	0/0	D2 05	D2 CIN 05	Can apply for reinstatement from NFL suspension this summer, makes big plays. Is he wanted back?
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
34	Adams, Blue (CB)	5-10	184	4	Cincinnati	16/0	FA 07	D7 DET 03	Bengals like his NFL experience as productive player on special teams cover units.
27	*Brooks, Greg (CB)	5-11	182	4	Southern Mississippi	5/0	D6 04	D6 CIN 04	Long shot to make club in fourth season. Only chance is special teams; injury prone.
36	Busing, John (S)	6-2	221	2	Miami, Ohio	7/0	FA 06	OFA CIN 06	Second-year player made transition from college linebacker to pro safety.
29	Hall, Leon (CB)	5-11	193	R	Michigan	0/0	D1 07	D1 CIN 07	Rookie first-round pick has pro-ready look to him after excellent college career at Michigan.
28	**Jackson, Dexter (S)**	**6-0**	**210**	**9**	**Florida State**	**12/11**	**UFA,TB 06**	**D4 TB 99**	**Bengals need him to stay healthy for 16 games to provide leadership, run defense.**
44	Jones, Herana-Daze (S)	5-11	205	2	Indiana	16/0	FA 06	OFA CIN 05	Led team with 19 special teams tackles in 2006; will get look on defense.
22	**Joseph, Johnathan (CB)**	**5-11**	**193**	**2**	**South Carolina**	**16/9**	**D1 06**	**D1 CIN 06**	**Will start, but needs to catch ball; dropped 10 potential interceptions as rookie.**
43	Kilmer, Ethan (S)	6-0	204	2	Penn State	16/0	D7 06	D7 CIN 06	Excellent special teams player will get a chance to play on defense.
41	Ndukwe, Chinedum (S)	6-2	206	R	Notre Dame	0/0	D7 07	D7 CIN 07	Seventh-round pick from Notre Dame has chance with special teams vacancies.
24	**O'Neal, Deltha (CB)**	**5-11**	**194**	**8**	**California**	**12/7**	**T,DEN 04**	**D1 DEN 00**	**Moody, on-again, off-again veteran needs to have head in game in 2007.**
25	Ratliff, Keiwan (CB)	5-11	188	4	Florida	16/0	D2 04	D2 CIN 04	Bengals about to give up on 2004 second-round pick.
26	White, Marvin (S)	6-1	199	R	Texas Christian	0/0	D4 07	D4 CIN 07	Big hitter from Texas Christian looks like value pick in fourth round.
40	**Williams, Madieu (S)**	**6-1**	**203**	**4**	**Maryland**	**16/16**	**D2 04**	**D2 CIN 04**	**Solid and dependable, but must provide more big plays on back end.**
SPECIALISTS									
17	Graham, Shayne (K)	6-0	200	7	Virginia Tech	16/0	W,CARO 03	OFA NO 00	Needs to shake off missed field goal in finale that would have put team in playoffs.
19	Larson, Kyle (P)	6-1	204	4	Nebraska	16/0	OFA 04	OFA CIN 04	Former college free agent has improved each year with quality coaching.
48	St. Louis, Brad (LS/TE)	6-3	243	8	SW Missouri State	16/0	D7 00	D7 CIN 00	Dependable player faltered slightly toward end of season with high snaps.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Jesse Holley (North Carolina), Tony Kays (Cal-Davis); TEs Daniel Coats (Brigham Young), Tim Day (1, Oregon), Ronnie Ghent (1, Louisville), Sean Mulcahy (1, Connecticut); OTs Elliot Seifert (Temple), Dane Uperesa (Hawaii); OGs Nate Livings (1, Louisiana State), Harrison Nikolao (Eastern Washington); QB Jeff Smith (Georgetown, Ky.); FBs Chris Manderino (1, California), Stan White (Ohio State); DEs Bryan Andrews (Wake Forest), Eric Henderson (1, Georgia Tech), Xzavie Jackson (Missouri), Jimmy Verdon (1, Arizona State); LBs Matt Muncy (Ohio), Cameron Siskowic (Illinois State); CBs Brandon Williams (1, Michigan), T.J. Wright (Ohio)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

- Reliance on takeaways. At its best in 2005, it had a league-best 44, which helped compensate dramatically for the big number of yards allowed. The Bengals dropped to a still-respectable 31 takeaways in 2006, but unless they do a better job on third down, that's not enough.
- Filling holes on special teams. Gone are stalwarts Tony Stewart, Marcus Wilkins and Kevin Kaesviharn. Special teams coach Darrin Simmons has a roster filled with fast, athletic defensive players from which to choose. The trick is to make them perform as disciplined units.
- Better efficiency on offense. Carson Palmer knows it starts with him improving his completion percentage from the low 60s to the high 60s. They need to convert third downs more consistently to keep the defense on the sidelines and keep leads.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Deltha O'Neal

The career of eight-year veteran cornerback Deltha O'Neal has been marked by inconsistency: Marvelous highs that landed him in the Pro Bowl in 2001 for Denver and 2005 for Cincinnati. It's also been marked by periods of maddening disinterest and poor play. The 2006 season, on the heels of a 10-interception year, was one of those times. The situation got so bad in Denver in 2003 that coach Mike Shanahan moved O'Neal to wide receiver.

O'Neal suffered a pair of nagging injuries and was arrested for DUI at a police check point in suburban Cincinnati. His production dropped on the field. He will face a challenge from rookie first-round pick Leon Hall, but the Bengals need O'Neal to play nearer his potential and provide positive leadership to Hall and second-year cornerback Johnathan Joseph, the other starter.

Every NFL team needs three strong cornerbacks to defend multiple-receiver sets. The Bengals are thin and inexperienced behind O'Neal, Hall and Joseph. O'Neal needs to recapture some of his 2005 magic in 2007: he broke up 25 passes with 10 picks and 63 total tackles in 2005; those numbers dropped to nine, one and 38 in 2006. Those aren't good enough for a defense that needs him badly.

Hartwell, who played one season for Lewis when Lewis was the Ravens defensive coordinator. Hartwell would add experience and leadership to a young group whose steadiest player is fourth-year pro Landon Johnson. Second-year NFL player Rashad Jeanty, who started his career in Canada, likely will start on the strong side. Don't look for former first-day draft picks from 2005, David Pollack (neck) and Odell Thurman (league suspension) to play in 2007.

RATING: 6

SECONDARY

The Bengals exercised some addition by subtraction in letting cornerback Tory James leave as an unrestricted free agent to New England. Second-year pro Johnathan Joseph, who led the team with 19 passes broken up, is more than ready to start. He has been working on his hands; he estimates he dropped as many as 10 potential interceptions as a rookie. The Bengals, who did not draft a true cornerback in the first round in their first 38 drafts as a franchise, went cornerback with two consecutive first-round picks in taking Michigan's Leon Hall with the 18th overall selection. He appears to be pro ready and will push Deltha O'Neal, if O'Neal shows up as apparently disinterested as he was in 2006.

At safety, where the Bengals have little NFL experience behind starters Dexter Jackson and Madieu Williams, they added fourth rounder Marvin White — a heavy hitter — from Texas Christian.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Coach Darrin Simmons will be working hard to replace several veterans that departed in free agency. White is among the rookies who will be counted on, along with second-year defenders A.J. Nicholson and Frostee Rucker, to fill the openings. Getting Tab Perry and Chatman back should help on kickoff and punt returns. Kicker Shayne Graham, punter/holder Kyle Larson and long snapper Brad St. Louis need to rebound from gaffes in the last two games that cost the Bengals a playoff spot.

RATING: 7.5

INTANGIBLES

The Bengals are no longer a novelty act or a surprise. They are a known team, with a strong offense run by one of the game's top quarterbacks. The opposition also knows that the Bengals field an under-performing defense. The Bengals have to find a way to improve the defense, and with largely the same nucleus of defensive players, the task falls upon coaches to do a better job with the scheme and the players they have selected. Ten of the team's 14 first-day draft picks since and including the 2004 draft have been defensive players.

RATING: Minus 1

— Mark Curnutte

2006 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 10	at Kansas City	23-10
Sep. 17	CLEVELAND	34-17
Sep. 24	at Pittsburgh	28-20
Oct. 1	NEW ENGLAND	13-38
Oct. 8	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 15	at Tampa Bay	13-14
Oct. 22	CAROLINA	17-14
Oct. 29	ATLANTA	27-29
Nov. 5	at Baltimore	20-26
Nov. 12	SAN DIEGO	41-49
Nov. 19	at New Orleans	31-16
Nov. 26	at Cleveland	30- 0
Nov. 30	BALTIMORE	13- 7
Dec. 10	OAKLAND	27-10
Dec. 18	at Indianapolis	16-34
Dec. 24	at Denver	23-24
Dec. 31	PITTSBURGH (OT)	17-23

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	at Detroit (Thu.)	7:30
Aug. 18	NEW ORLEANS (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 27	at Atlanta (Mon.)	8:00
Aug. 31	INDIANAPOLIS (Fri.)	7:30
Sep. 10	BALTIMORE (Mon.)	7:00
Sep. 16	at Cleveland	1:00
Sep. 23	at Seattle	1:05
Oct. 1	NEW ENGLAND (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	at Kansas City	12:00
Oct. 21	N.Y. JETS	4:05
Oct. 28	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Nov. 4	at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 11	at Baltimore	4:05
Nov. 18	ARIZONA	1:00
Nov. 25	TENNESSEE	1:00
Dec. 2	at Pittsburgh	8:15
Dec. 9	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Dec. 15	at San Francisco (Sat.)	5:15
Dec. 23	CLEVELAND	1:00
Dec. 30	at Miami	1:00

CLEVELAND BROWNS

2006 RECORD: 4-12 | STADIUM: Cleveland Browns Stadium, 73,200, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

AFC NORTH | www.clevelandbrowns.com

AT A GLANCE

76 Lou Groza Boulevard
Berea, OH 44017
(440) 891-5000

TRAINING CAMP:
Browns Facility; Berea, OH

COACH:
Romeo Crennel, 3rd year with Browns and as NFL head coach (10-22)

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/ GENERAL MANAGER:
Phil Savage

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Bill Rees

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
T.J. McCreight

COORDINATOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Steve Sabo

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs
Rob Chudzinski	Offensive coordinator	4	2
Rip Scherer	*Quarterbacks	3	3
Steve Marshall	Offensive line	5	1
Mike Sullivan	Offensive line asst.	5	5
Anthony Lynn	Running backs	8	1
Dave Atkins	Sr. offensive assistant	22	3
Wes Chandler	Receivers	5	1
Alfredo Roberts	Tight ends	5	1
Frank Verducci	Offensive quality control	7	1
Todd Grantham	Defensive coordinator	9	3
Randy Melvin	Defensive line	5	3
Mike Haluchak	Linebackers	22	3
Mel Tucker	Secondary	3	3
Cory Undlin	DB/asst. special teams	4	3
Bob Trott	Defensive assistant	8	3
Umberto Leone	Defensive quality control	3	3
Ted Daisher	Special teams	4	1
Tom Myslinski	Strength & Conditioning	2	2
Alan DeGennaro	Strength & Conditioning	1	1

*Assistant head coach

Browns Faithful Feel It's Time to Produce

This is the third summer of the Extreme Makeover Browns general manager Phil Savage started in January 2005, and it is time to move that bus and see what he has produced.

Only eight players remain from 2004, and that number might shrink by the end of training camp as Savage and coach Romeo Crennel continue to gut the team they inherited.

"That core group of players from '99 to '03, when you have five players left from 53 draft picks — that's a difficult thing to overcome," Savage said. "We've tried to with free agency; we've tried to with trades; and we've tried to with waiver pickups. We certainly have tried to in the draft."

Savage has signed 20 restricted or unrestricted free agents and drafted 31 players. The 2007 off-season was his most aggressive. The Browns signed guard Eric Steinbach in free agency and then picked tackle Joe Thomas and Brady Quinn in the first round of the draft, sacrificing their first pick in 2008 for Quinn.

The Browns are 10-22 in Savage's reign and are 41-87 since returning to the NFL in 1999. Their only winning season in eight years was 2002 when they were 9-7.

Fans remain blindly, fiercely loyal, hoping to be part of a new legacy of a proud franchise that has won one NFL championship since 1955. Yet, support is dwindling. Where once there was a waiting list, for the first time since their rebirth, the Browns are advertising to sell season tickets.

"I do feel, going into this season, with the draft we had and what we did in free agency, the fortunes of the Browns are turning around," Savage said. "We're much closer in terms of having a real solid group of players."

COACHING

Crennel survived a purge after the 4-12 season in 2006, but most of his offensive assistants did not. The biggest change is new offensive coordinator Rob Chudzinski. Chudzinski was a tight ends coach for three years in the NFL before being hired away from the Chargers, but he did have offensive coordinator experience at the University of Miami. He has installed a power rushing, vertical passing offense.

Defensive coordinator Todd Grantham has quietly assumed more power and is a disciple of the 3-4 defense the Browns have played for two years.

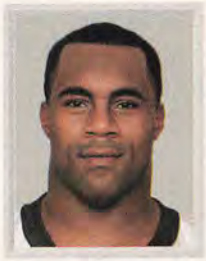
RATING: 6

QUARTERBACKS

Quinn's history shows he made the players around him in high school and at Notre Dame better, and now he will have the chance to do the same for the team he followed as a youngster in Dublin, Ohio when he pretended to be Bernie Kosar. Crennel is convinced the pre-draft talk of Quinn being inaccurate with his passes was unfounded.

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
RB Jamal Lewis



The Browns signed Lewis in free agency, hoping he can turn back the clock to the time when he was a punishing runner for the Ravens. General manager Phil Savage says Lewis is hungry again.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
S Mike Adams, WR Tim Carter, TE Ryan Krause, RB Jamal Lewis, C/G Seth McKinney, LB Antwan Peek, LB Jason Short, DT Robaire Smith, DT Shaun Smith, G Eric Steinbach, CB Kenny Wright

KEY LOSS:
S Brian Russell (12/12)*
Russell was not a bone-crushing tackler most of his two years with the Browns, but he was the glue that held a shaky secondary together in 2006. Russell signed with Seattle in free agency.

OTHER LOSSES
OG Joe Andruzzi (14/14), CB Ralph Brown (16/4), QB Lang Campbell (0/0), G Cosey Coleman (15/15), RB Reuben Droughns (14/12), DE Nick Eason (13/3), CB Daylon McCutcheon (0/0), DE Alvin McKinley (14/14), WR/PR Dennis Northcutt 13/6), FB Terrelle Smith (16/8), LB Nick Speegle (2/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
16; 8 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

Charlie Frye will begin training camp as the starter, and he might well be under center for the season opener against the Steelers. Crennel does not rush rookies into the lineup, and he certainly won't break that rule with a quarterback.

Frye has to guard the football better. He turned it over 25 times last year. Derek Anderson turned it over eight times. Statistically they were the worst quarterback tandem in the league.

RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

Savage says a hungry Jamal Lewis is a good Jamal Lewis. The Browns signed the former Raven to a one-year contract, hoping he could regain some of the magic that made him a 2,000-yard rusher in 2003.

Running back is thin after Lewis. Jason Wright can be a spot starter if Lewis is injured and can give Lewis a breather, but he is not an every-down player. Jerome Harrison, a fifth-round draft choice in 2006, has to prove he can block and hold onto the ball to earn more than the 20 carries he got last year.

Lawrence Vickers and Alan Ricard will battle to be the starting fullback.

RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

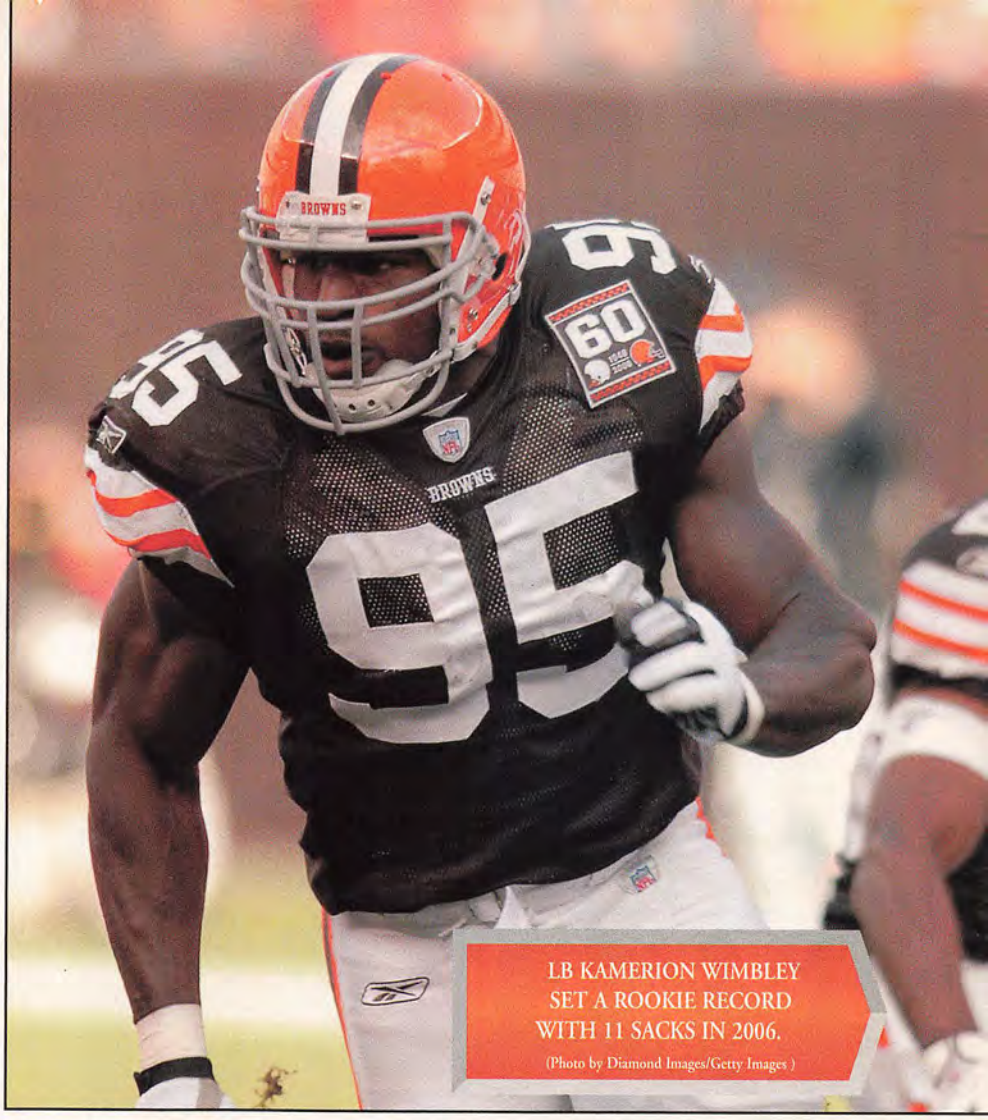
If tight end Kellen Winslow bounces back completely from January microfracture surgery on his right knee and if Braylon Edwards can live up to the status of being the third overall pick in 2005, the pass offense will be potent.

Last season, Edwards drew unwanted attention when he chartered a helicopter to fly him to Columbus for the Ohio State-Michigan football game. He was late to a team meeting that night. Moreover, Edwards dropped more passes than a No. 1 receiver should.

Edwards should be the chief beneficiary of adding Thomas and Quinn, because now the quarterback will have time to get him the ball. Edwards, for his part, vows not to be the off-the-field distraction he was last year.

Steady, sure-handed Joe Jurevicius is set as the complement to Edwards. The Browns will search for a slot receiver in training camp. Travis Wilson has the edge, but Wilson played from scrimmage in only the final game last season. Crennel continued to use Dennis Northcutt ahead of Wilson, knowing Northcutt would not be re-signed for 2007.

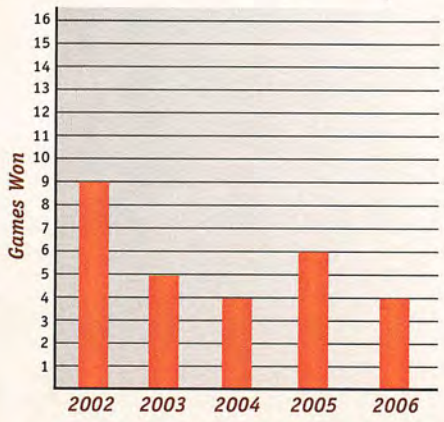
RATING: 7.5



LB KAMERION WIMBLEY SET A ROOKIE RECORD WITH 11 SACKS IN 2006.

(Photo by Diamond Images/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2002*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Improving the line was an off-season priority for the Browns. They signed Steinbach to play left guard, a move that weakens AFC North rival Cincinnati, Steinbach's former team, and they solidified left tackle with Thomas.

Picking Thomas allows Crennel to move Kevin Shaffer to right tackle, or at the very least set up a training camp battle between Shaffer and Ryan Tucker.

Tucker missed two games in October and five in December with what the team described as a mental disorder. It would be a bonus if he returns to his 2005 form.

Right guard is a question mark, but the Browns expect Seth McKinney to bounce back from a neck injury that forced him to miss all of 2006 with the Dolphins. Hank Fraley will hold down the center job until — the Browns hope — LeCharles Bentley returns in 2008 from a patellar tendon injury in 2006.

RATING: 7.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Browns ranked 29th in run defense last season. Most of the problems could be traced to an aging, inadequate defensive line.

Nose tackle Ted Washington, 39, is back for his 17th season and second with the Browns. He played well last year, but he cannot play forever. The Browns believe they have his replacement in Shaun Smith. Smith signed as a restricted free agent from the Bengals.

The bigger question is at left defensive end. Orpheus Roye, 34, missed seven games last year with various injuries. He will have to play as well as he did in 2005 for the run defense to improve. Free agency pickup Robaire Smith is an upgrade over Alvin McKinley at right end.

Simon Fraser, second on the team last year with 4.5 sacks, can start, but is better as a role player.

RATING: 6

Browns Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
86	Carter, Tim	6-0	200	6	Auburn	16/8	T,CLV 07	D2 NYG 02	Could be the Browns' fastest player, but that won't translate into catches.
16	Cribbs, Joshua (KR)	6-1	192	3	Kent State	16/1	OFA 05	OFA CLV 05	Cribbs is more valuable on kick returns and punt coverage than as a receiver.
87	Dinkins, Darnell (TE)	6-4	259	6	Pittsburgh	14/2	UFA,BLT 06	OFA NYG 02	He blocks well in short yardage, but won't catch many passes as a tight end.
17	**Edwards, Braylon**	**6-3**	**212**	**3**	**Michigan**	**16/15**	**D1 05**	**D1 CLV 05**	**If he concentrates on football and not on Braylon Edwards, he can be a star.**
82	Heiden, Steve (TE)	6-5	267	9	South Dakota State	16/6	T,SD 02	D3 SD 99	Heiden might be underappreciated around the NFL, but he isn't in Cleveland.
84	**Jurevicius, Joe**	**6-5**	**232**	**10**	**Penn State**	**13/8**	**UFA,SEA 06**	**D2 NYG 98**	**Jurevicius should thrive in the pass offense Rob Chudzinski is installing.**
89	Krause, Ryan (TE)	6-3	256	4	Nebraska-Omaha	0/0	FA 07	D6 SD 04	Making the team as deep in tight ends as the Browns are will be challenging.
18	Mosley, Kendrick	6-2	207	1	Western Michigan	1/0	FA 06	OFA ATL 04	Mosley will battle Carter in training camp for the last wide receiver spot.
83	Sanders, Steve	6-3	201	R	Bowling Green	0/0	FA 07	OFA CLV 06	Sanders showed in training camp last year he can catch the ball in traffic.
12	Steptoe, Syndric	5-9	170	R	Arizona	0/0	D7 07	D7 CLV 07	Finding a punt returner is a priority in camp and Steptoe could be the answer.
81	Wilson, Travis	6-1	213	2	Oklahoma	4/1	D3 06	D3 CLV 06	Wilson will have to run precise routes to earn a job as the third receiver.
80	**Winslow, Kellen (TE)**	**6-4**	**248**	**3**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 CLV 04**	**K-2 caught 89 passes with one good knee in 2006. He says he's healthy now.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
57	*Bentley, LeCharles (C)	6-2	309	6	Ohio State	0/0	UFA,NO 06	D2 NO 02	Another patellar operation means another year on the injured list for Bentley.
71	*Butler, Kelly (T)	6-7	330	4	Purdue	7/5	W,DET 06	D6 DET 04	Butler can sub at right tackle in spot duty, but he is too slow to start.
70	Dorsey, Nat (T)	6-7	345	4	Georgia Tech	13/2	T,MINN 05	D4 MINN 04	Needs to be quicker, but the Browns aren't giving up on this huge tackle.
66	**Fraley, Hank (C)**	**6-2**	**300**	**8**	**Robert Morris**	**16/16**	**T,PHA 06**	**OFA PITT 00**	**Finishes off his blocks and then runs downfield to block some more.**
62	Friedman, Lennie (G)	6-3	295	9	Duke	16/2	FA 06	D2 DEN 99	He can play any of the three interior positions on the offensive line.
67	Matua, Fred (G)	6-2	305	2	Southern Cal	0/0	FA 06	D7 DET 06	The Browns need a new right guard and Matua is getting a chance to win the job.
68	***McKinney, Seth (G/C)**	**6-3**	**310**	**6**	**Texas A&M**	**0/0**	**FA 07**	**D3 MIA 02**	**Has recovered from a neck injury that landed him on injured reserve in 2006.**
77	Shaffer, Kevin (T)	6-5	320	6	Tulsa	16/16	UFA,ATL 06	D7 ATL 02	After disappointing at left tackle, he will shift to the right side.
50	Smith, Rob (C)	6-4	306	1	Tennessee	1/1	FA 06	OFA CLV 06	Got a chance to play at the end of 2006 and showed he can hold his ground.
61	Sowells, Isaac (G)	6-3	324	2	Indiana	1/0	D4 06	D4 CLV 06	Sowells never got on track in 2006, and now his roster spot is in jeopardy.
65	**Steinbach, Eric (G)**	**6-6**	**290**	**5**	**Iowa**	**16/16**	**UFA,CIN 07**	**D2 CIN 03**	**Rebuilding the line started with adding Steinbach to dig in at left guard.**
73	**Thomas, Joe (T)**	**6-6**	**311**	**R**	**Wisconsin**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 CLV 07**	**The Browns expect Thomas to be anchor at left tackle for at least the next 10 years.**
72	***Tucker, Ryan (T)**	**6-6**	**318**	**11**	**Texas Christian**	**9/9**	**FA 02**	**D4 STL 97**	**11-year veteran Tucker can still be a mauler as a bookend right tackle.**
RUNNING BACKS									
24	Barclay, Chris	5-10	180	1	Wake Forest	0/0	FA 06	OFA CLV 06	Barclay can earn a roster spot if he impresses the coaches quickly in camp.
35	Harrison, Jerome	5-9	199	R	Washington State	10/1	D5 06	D5 CLV 06	Harrison has speed to get outside, but has to block better than last year.
31	**Lewis, Jamal**	**5-11**	**245**	**8**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**FA 07**	**D1 BLT 00**	**A 1,200-yard season is realistic for Lewis behind the revamped offensive line.**
34	Ricard, Alan (FB)	5-11	237	6	Louisiana-Monroe	0/0	FA 07	OFA DALL 99	Ricard made holes for Lewis in Baltimore and has the chance to do it again.
47	**Vickers, Lawrence (FB)**	**6-0**	**233**	**R**	**Colorado**	**16/1**	**D6 06**	**D6 CLV 06**	**Vickers will have to get more physical to take over as the starting fullback.**
29	*Wright, Jason	5-10	210	2	Northwestern	13/3	FA 06	OFA SF 04	Reliable backup to Lewis will lower his shoulder and break through the line.
QUARTERBACKS									
3	*Anderson, Derek	6-6	229	3	Oregon State	5/3	W,BLT 05	D6 BLT 05	Anderson is decisive and has a strong arm, but his mobility is a major issue.
11	Dorsey, Ken	6-4	211	5	Miami	1/0	T,SF 06	D7 SF 03	Dorsey is valuable as a sounding board even if he never plays a single down.
9	**Frye, Charlie**	**6-4**	**218**	**3**	**Akron**	**13/13**	**D3 05**	**D3 CLV 05**	**Will begin camp as the starter, but he's in for a fight to keep his job.**
10	Quinn, Brady	6-3	232	R	Notre Dame	0/0	D1 07	D1 CLV 07	His coach at Notre Dame, Charlie Weis, says Quinn is prepared to start.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
75	Fraser, Simon (E)	6-6	295	3	Ohio State	16/5	OFA 05	OFA CLV 05	Fraser isn't fancy, but he gets to the passer and has improved against the run.
93	Harris, Orien (E)	6-3	302	1	Miami	2/0	FA 06	D4 PITT 06	Has the size to lean on offensive tackles and help out in run defense.
78	*Kelley, Ethan (NT)	6-2	320	4	Baylor	11/1	W,NE 06	D7 NE 03	Winning a job as a backup nose tackle will depend on him staying healthy.
96	Oshinowo, Babatunde	6-1	305	1	Stanford	1/0	FA 06	D6 CLV 06	Last season was a major disappointment. Making the roster will be a struggle.
69	*Parker, J'Vonne (NT)	6-4	323	2	Rutgers	8/0	FA 06	OFA CLV 05	Parker is part of a crowd trying to win a job as Ted Washington's backup.
97	Pittman, Chase (E)	6-5	273	R	Louisiana State	0/0	D7 07	D7 CLV 07	Pittman is light for an end in a 3-4, so he will have to prove he is quick.
60	Purcell, Melila (E)	6-5	266	R	Hawaii	0/0	D6 07	D6 CLV 07	Expected to play in passing situations; had 9.5 sacks at Hawaii last fall.
99	***Roye, Orpheus (E)**	**6-4**	**315**	**12**	**Florida State**	**9/9**	**UFA,PIT 00**	**D6 PIT 96**	**There's confidence the injuries that sidelined him last year won't get him again.**
98	**Smith, Robaire (E)**	**6-4**	**314**	**8**	**Michigan State**	**15/12**	**UFA,CLV 07**	**D6 TENN 00**	**Right end was a weak spot last season and he is expected to rectify that.**
91	Smith, Shaun (NT)	6-2	325	4	South Carolina	13/0	RFA,CIN 07	OFA DALL 03	Browns are gambling Smith will learn enough to start at nose tackle in 2008.
92	**Washington, Ted (T)**	**6-5**	**365**	**17**	**Louisville**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D1 SF 91**	**He is 39, but manages to stay in shape and clogs the middle of the line.**
LINEBACKERS									
54	**Davis, Andra (I)**	**6-1**	**254**	**6**	**Florida**	**14/14**	**D5 02**	**D5 CLV 02**	**Davis always leads in tackles, but he faces a challenge from Leon Williams.**
58	***Jackson, D'Qwell (I)**	**6-0**	**228**	**2**	**Maryland**	**13/13**	**D2 06**	**D2 CLV 06**	**Jackson overcomes his lack of size with quick anticipation and instincts.**
55	**McGinest, Willie (O)**	**6-5**	**268**	**14**	**Southern Cal**	**14/13**	**FA 06**	**D1 NE 94**	**Now 35 years old, McGinest relies on cunning more than just athletic skill.**
90	McMillan, David (O)	6-3	250	3	Kansas	10/0	D5 05	D5 CLV 05	So far, he has been a 'tweener that hasn't adjusted well to linebacker.
56	Peek, Antwan (O)	6-3	258	5	Cincinnati	11/2	UFA,HOUS 07	D3 HOUS 03	Was an end in Houston; Browns see him as a situational pass rusher.
50	Short, Jason (O)	6-4	254	4	Eastern Michigan	12/0	FA 07	FA PHA 03	Special teams coach Ted Daisher knows Short can deliver on coverage units.
59	Smith, Clifton (I)	6-3	253	1	Syracuse	1/0	FA 06	OFA WSH 03	Securing a roster spot depends on the impact he makes on special teams.
52	Stewart, Matt (O)	6-3	236	7	Vanderbilt	16/4	UFA,ATL 05	D4 ATL 01	Experience makes Stewart valuable on a team searching for defensive depth.
51	Thompson, Chaun (I)	6-2	249	5	West Texas A&M	16/2	D2 03	D2 CLV 03	Had 102 tackles in 2005; this year he will be fighting for a job.
53	Unck, Mason (I)	6-3	238	4	Arizona State	16/0	FA 04	OFA CLV 03	The Browns re-signed him because of the way he covers on special teams.
94	Williams, Leon (I)	6-2	238	2	Miami	16/3	D4 06	D4 CLV 06	Williams will challenge for a starting job after an impressive finish last season.
95	**Wimbley, Kamerion (O)**	**6-3**	**245**	**2**	**Florida State**	**16/15**	**D1 06**	**D1 CLV 06**	**The bar is sitting high for him after registering 11 sacks as a rookie last season.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
20	Adams, Mike (S)	5-11	195	4	Delaware	16/8	FA 07	OFA SF 04	Provides needed insurance after Brian Russell left in free agency.
23	*Baxter, Gary (CB)	6-2	210	7	Baylor	3/3	UFA,BLT 05	D2 BLT 01	Odds are working against him coming back from two patellar tendon tears.
28	**Bodden, Leigh (CB)**	**6-1**	**192**	**5**	**Duquesne**	**9/9**	**OFA 03**	**OFA CLV 03**	**A reliable left cornerback, but he has yet to play a full season.**
36	Emanuel, Ben (S)	6-2	220	2	UCLA	0/0	FA 06	D5 CARO 05	Will have to impress quickly to beat out Adams for a backup role.
38	Fontenot, Therrian (CB)	5-10	187	1	Fresno State	1/0	FA 06	OFA BUFF 05	He's part of a big logjam fighting for the fourth cornerback spot.
27	Hamilton, Justin (S)	6-3	217	2	Virginia Tech	10/0	D7 06	D7 CLV 07	Back problems slowed him last year, but he is ready to go this season.
39	Holly, Daven (CB)	5-10	192	3	Cincinnati	14/12	FA 06	D7 SF 05	After leading the team with five picks in '06, he should be the nickel back.
26	**Jones, Sean (S)**	**6-1**	**215**	**4**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**D2 04**	**D2 CLV 04**	**Next to Wimbley, Jones could be the best defensive player the Browns have.**
41	*LeSueur, Jeremy (CB)	6-0	204	2	Michigan	0/0	FA 06	D3 DEN 04	He can run, but it will take more than speed to make the final roster.
48	McDonald, Brandon	5-10	181	R	Memphis	0/0	D5 07	D5 CLV 07	Rookie will be in the mix to replace Dennis Northcutt as the punt returner.
22	*Minter, DeMario (CB)	5-11	190	2	Georgia	0/0	D5 06	D5 CLV 06	Missed 2006 with a knee injury; Browns are eager to see him play.
30	Perkins, Antonio (CB)	5-11	194	3	Oklahoma	5/0	FA 07	D4 CLV 05	One of the disappointments in the 2005 draft, this is Perkins' last chance.
33	Perry, Jereme (CB)	6-0	190	2	Eastern Michigan	12/0	FA 06	OFA CLV 06	Perry stays with his receiver, but has to be better at closing out the play.
21	**Pool, Brodney (S)**	**6-2**	**208**	**3**	**Oklahoma**	**16/8**	**D2 05**	**D2 CLV 05**	**Has to show he can be the secondary quarterback with Russell in Seattle.**
37	Sandy, Justin (S)	6-0	214	2	Northern Iowa	0/0	FA 07	OFA TENN 04	Browns are always on the lookout for role players on special teams.
24	**Wright, Eric (CB)**	**5-10**	**192**	**R**	**Nevada-Las Vegas**	**0/0**	**D2 07**	**D2 CLV 07**	**The second-round rookie could step in at right cornerback immediately.**
25	Wright, Kenny (CB)	6-1	207	9	Northwestern State	16/8	UFA,WSH 07	D4 MINN 99	With such a young secondary, the Browns are looking to Wright for leadership.
SPECIALISTS									
4	Dawson, Phil (K)	5-11	201	9	Texas	16/0	FA 99	OFA OAK 98	Dawson is confident he can kick his way out of the slump he experienced in 2006.
64	Pontbriand, Ryan (LS)	6-2	250	5	Rice	16/0	D5 03	D5 CLV 03	No one notices Pontbriand. That's because his long snaps are automatic.
15	Zastudil, Dave (P)	6-3	220	6	Ohio University	16/0	UFA,BLT 06	D4 BLT 02	He can float punts inside the 10 or hang them in the stadium lights.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; VA=Veteran Allocation.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Mike Mason (Tennessee State); TE Buck Ortega (1, Miami); OTs Pete Lougheed (1, Purdue), Cliff Louis (Morgan State), Brent Pousson (McNeese State); OG Andrew Hoffman (1, Virginia); C Scott Stephenson (Iowa State); RBs Charles Ali (Arkansas-Pine Bluff), Jerome Jackson (Michigan); DT Alvin Smith (1, Oregon State); LBs Mike Alston (Toledo), Kevin Sears (Auburn); PK Jesse Ainsworth (Arizona State); P Kyle Basler (1, Washington State).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*First-year offensive coordinator Rob Chudzinski is implementing an attacking offense based on power rushing. Last season, the Browns ranked 31st offensively and 30th in scoring. Beefing up the offensive line by adding guard Eric Steinbach in free agency and drafting tackle Joe Thomas are keys to making the offense work.

*Ted Washington is 39 and still plugging away as a starting nose tackle. He started all 16 games last season in his first year with the Browns. He will have to hold up again because the player behind him, Shaun Smith, is unproven.

*Kellen Winslow had microfracture surgery on his right knee on Jan. 30. Normally it takes a year to recover from such an operation, but Winslow worked like a fiend so he could be ready for training camp. The Browns need Winslow healthy to make the offense click.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Romeo Crennel

Browns owner Randy Lerner has not specified a number of games the Browns must win for Romeo Crennel to still be the team's coach in 2008, but it is safe to say anything resembling the 4-12 record of last year won't cut it.

"There is always pressure to win," Crennel said. "I said when I was hired if we don't win somebody else will be sitting in this chair."

The most damning portion of Crennel's two years isn't so much the overall record of 10-22, which is bad enough. Lerner accepts the concept Crennel did not have much to work with when he took over in 2005.

What sticks out most is the Browns are just 1-11 against AFC North opponents under Crennel. The only division game the Browns won on Crennel's watch was the finale in 2005 when they beat the Ravens 20-16, and it took a 62-yard punt return by Dennis Northcutt in the fourth quarter for that to happen.

In an odd twist of fate, three of the Browns' first four games in 2007 are against the AFC North, so Lerner will know quickly if his team is any better against the division. The bye is Oct. 21. Crennel might know his fate for this year by then.

LINEBACKERS

Savage used three of his first four draft choices in 2006 on linebackers. Predictably, it was the most improved part of the team, starting with right outside linebacker Kamerion Wimbley, who set a rookie record with 11 sacks.

The player to watch this year is Leon Williams, a 2006 fourth-round draft choice from Miami. He will challenge Andra Davis for one of the inside spots. The other belongs to D'Qwell Jackson, another 2006 draft choice.

Left outside linebacker Willie McGinest did not pressure quarterbacks as well as the Browns hoped he would, but McGinest is still important as a team leader. Antwan Peek, a former Texan signed in free agency, will spell McGinest on third-down situations.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

Thomas and Quinn were headline-grabbing picks in the draft, but the draft choice that might have been the shrewdest was when Savage traded Dallas the Browns' third- and fourth-round picks so he could draft cornerback Eric Wright with the Cowboys' second-round pick.

Wright was arrested on suspicion of rape in March, 2005, while at Southern Cal. Charges were never filed, but Wright transferred to UNLV. The Browns trust he will not get into trouble again.

Wright should win a starting job opposite left cornerback Leigh Bodden. Daven Holly would be the nickel back. He had five interceptions last year. Third-year safety Brodney Pool replaces Brian Russell as free safety. Pool does not yet have Russell's leadership skills. Sean Jones is solid as the strong safety.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Browns believe Phil Dawson just had an off-year in 2006 when he missed eight of 29 field-goal attempts. Part of the problem was his plant foot would slide on worn out sod in Cleveland Browns Stadium.

Dave Zastudil, in his second season with the Browns, hangs his punts high, and long snapper Ryan Pontbriand is as close to automatic as a human being can be.

The challenge on special teams will be finding a punt returner to replace Dennis Northcutt. Rookies Brandon McDonald and Syndric Steptoe will battle for that job. Opponents kick away from kickoff returner Joshua Cribbs.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

The Browns truly believe they have turned a corner. Getting Quinn in the draft was a big part of that. So is the fact the players do not want a poor effort by them to cost Romeo Crennel his job.

RATING: Plus 1

— Jeff Schudel

2006 RESULTS

Record: 4-12

Sep. 10	NEW ORLEANS	14-19
Sep. 17	at Cincinnati	17-34
Sep. 24	BALTIMORE	14-15
Oct. 1	at Oakland	24-21
Oct. 8	at Carolina	12-20
Oct. 15	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 22	DENVER	7-17
Oct. 29	N. Y. JETS	20-13
Nov. 5	at San Diego	25-32
Nov. 12	at Atlanta	17-13
Nov. 19	PITTSBURGH	20-24
Nov. 26	CINCINNATI	0-30
Dec. 3	KANSAS CITY (OT)	31-28
Dec. 7	at Pittsburgh	7-27
Dec. 17	at Baltimore	17-27
Dec. 24	TAMPA BAY	7-22
Dec. 31	at Houston	6-14

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	KANSAS CITY (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 18	DETROIT (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 25	at Denver (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 30	at Chicago (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Sep. 16	CINCINNATI	1:00
Sep. 23	at Oakland	1:05
Sep. 30	BALTIMORE	1:00
Oct. 7	at New England	1:00
Oct. 14	MIAMI	1:00
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	at St. Louis	12:00
Nov. 4	SEATTLE	4:05
Nov. 11	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Nov. 18	at Baltimore	1:00
Nov. 25	HOUSTON	1:00
Dec. 2	at Arizona	2:05
Dec. 9	at N.Y. Jets	4:15
Dec. 16	BUFFALO	1:00
Dec. 23	at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 30	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

2006 RECORD: 8-8 | STADIUM: Heinz Field, 65,050, Grass/DD GrassMaster | PROJECTED FINISH: 3rd

AFC NORTH | www.steelers.com

AT A GLANCE

3400 South Water St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
(412) 432-7800

TRAINING CAMP:
St. Vincent College; Latrobe, PA

COACH:
Mike Tomlin, 1st year with Steelers and as NFL head coach

PRESIDENT:
Arthur J. Rooney II

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Kevin Colbert

COLLEGE SCOUTING COORDINATOR:
Ron Hughes

PRO SCOUTING COORDINATOR:
Doug Whaley

SPECIAL ASSISTANT:
Joe Greene

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Bruce Arians	Offensive coordinator	15	4
Ken Anderson	Quarterbacks	15	1
Larry Zierlein	Offensive line	6	1
Kirby Wilson	Running backs	10	1
Randy Fichtner	Receivers	1	1
James Daniel	Tight ends	15	4
Harold Goodwin	Off. quality cont./OL	4	2
Dick LeBeau	Defensive coordinator	35	10
John Mitchell	Defensive line	17	14
Keith Butler	Linebackers	9	5
Ray Horton	Secondary	14	4
Lou Spanos	Defensive quality control	13	13
Bob Ligashesky	Special teams	4	1
Amos Jones	Special teams assistant	1	1
Garrett Giemont	Strength & Conditioning	26	1
Marcel Pastoor	Strength & Conditioning	4	4

Steelers Adjust to Rare Coaching Change

The Steelers change coaches about once every generation, and they embark on a new one in 2007 under Mike Tomlin, just 35 years old, or the same age as Bill Cowher was when they hired him in 1992.

Cowher wanted to see if he could win two straight Super Bowls; instead his 2006 and last edition under-performed and he resigned to take a break from coaching. Except for a few key losses, most of those players are back, as is the core of that Super Bowl team.

Tomlin's job will be to recharge them, something they lacked last season after winning it all the year before.

COACHING

Tomlin wants the Steelers to be "a fundamental football team that wins by attrition, that's mentally and physically tough. In order to win you have to stop the run and you have to run the ball effectively."

Yet, new offensive coordinator Bruce Arians plans to use four wide receivers more often on first and second downs. Arians, promoted from wide receivers coach from Bill Cowher's old staff, has a strong history of throwing the ball.

Tomlin pulled a small surprise of his own when he kept Dick LeBeau as his defensive coordinator, only because LeBeau long has coached a 3-4 zone blitz defense while Tomlin has coached a 4-3 Cover 2.

Most of the Steelers' defensive staff were kept by Tomlin. Tomlin said the Steelers will run the 3-4 this year.

"In today's NFL, the lines are really starting to get a little blurry, specifically when you start talking about the 3-4 vs. the 4-3," Tomlin said.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

The Steelers will go about as far as Ben Roethlisberger takes them this season. That could be said about most quarterbacks, but as Big Ben goes, so go the Steelers and they both went downhill fast last season. Roethlisberger could do no wrong in his first two seasons with a 13-0 record as a rookie and a Super Bowl victory to cap his second season. All of Pittsburgh hopes he's the quarterback who emerges in 2007, not the one with 23 interceptions and 18 touchdowns last season with the 75.4 passer rating (down from a two-year 98.3).

Charlie Batch, at 32, is more than competent as the backup to Roethlisberger. He threw for five touchdowns and no interceptions last season, winning the opener after Roethlisberger had an appendectomy. Brian St. Pierre was signed back as a restricted free agent to compete for the No. 3 job.

RATING: 8

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION

LB Lawrence Timmons

He's not big and he's not fast, but he was productive on the outside at Florida State. He's explosive and is the heir apparent to Joey Porter on the right side in the 3-4.

OTHER ADDITIONS:

RB Kevan Barlow, DE Nick Eason, G/C Sean Mahan

KEY LOSS:

LB Joey Porter (14/14)*

He was the heart and soul of an emotional defense, a leader in the locker room and their fourth most productive sacker in team history with 60. They have no one to replace him this year.

OTHER LOSSES

DE Rodney Bailey (12/0), T Barrett Brooks (0/0), LB Chad Brown (8/0), C Jeff Hartings (14/14), RB Verron Haynes (7/0), S Mike Logan (12/0), S Andre Lott (0/0), WR Lee Mays (1/0), WR Sean Morey (16/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:

20; 10 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

RUNNING BACKS

No one says Willie Parker cannot carry the load as a true Pittsburgh-style running back anymore, even if his style is nothing like the Steelers have ever seen. Parker polished off his second straight 1,000-yard season by piling up 1,494 yards on 337 carries. That was the third-best rushing total in the team's illustrious rushing history and the fourth-most carries by a running back.

Tomlin wants two backs, the way many NFL teams use them. Najeh Davenport, the Packers' former backup, returns, but quality depth was added when Kevan Barlow was signed in May..

Blocking specialist Dan Kreider has been the only fullback on the roster the past several years.

RATING: 8

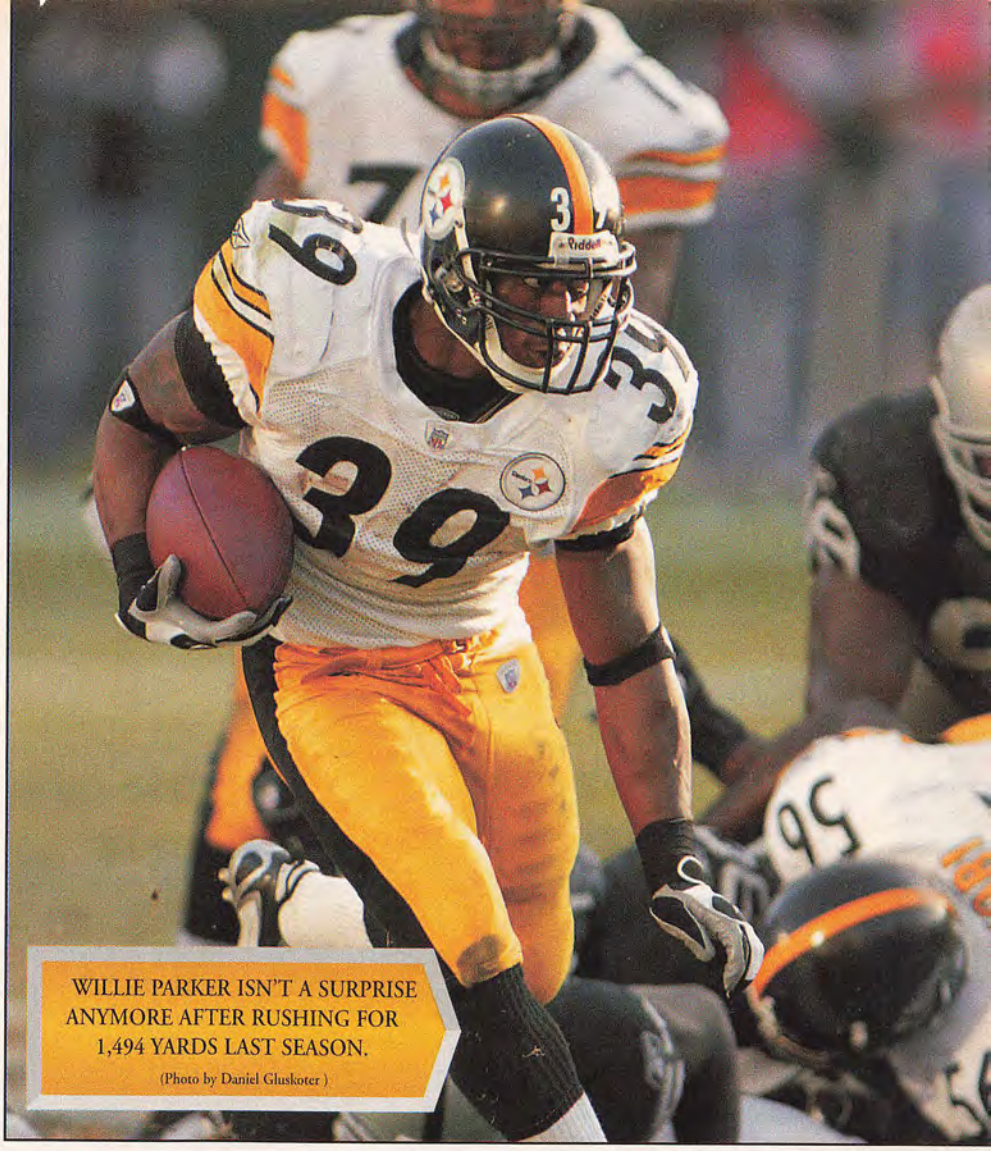
RECEIVERS

Hines Ward continues his assault on the Steelers' receiving records and shows no sign he's slowing down at age 31. He led the team in receiving for the eighth straight year with 74 receptions for 975 yards. Ward's 8,005 career yards are 718 short of John Stallworth's team record. He owns the club mark with 648 receptions.

Santonio Holmes blossomed over the second half of his rookie season and moved up to become a fine complement to Ward in the starting lineup. When they go to four receivers, Cedrick Wilson and Nate Washington will appear as the offense opens up a little more early on.

Tight end Heath Miller, at 6-5, remains a big target also, and they added another in 6-7 rookie Matt Spaeth.

RATING: 7.5



WILLIE PARKER ISN'T A SURPRISE ANYMORE AFTER RUSHING FOR 1,494 YARDS LAST SEASON.

(Photo by Daniel Gluskoter)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

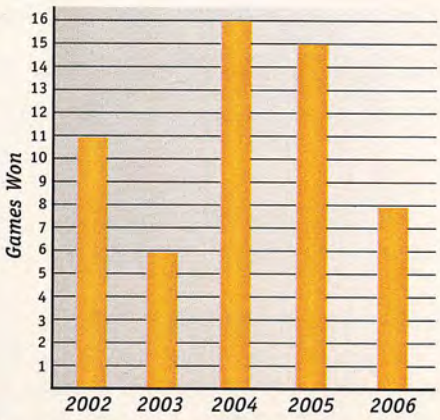
More than anything, good offensive lines carried the Steelers to their heights under Cowher. Now they find themselves in a state of transition. Two-time Pro Bowl center Jeff Hartings retired, leaving their only big free-agent signing, Sean Mahan, to compete with longtime heir apparent Chukky Okobi for the job.

Three other starters enter the final years of their contracts, including six-time Pro Bowl guard Alan Faneca. Right guard Kendall Simmons and right tackle Max Starks also could be in their final season in Pittsburgh.

Two young players will compete for starting jobs, Willie Colon with Starks and Chris Kemoeatu with Simmons. Marvel Smith remains steady at left tackle.

RATING: 7

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2002, 2004, 2005*

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Steelers believe they have the best three-man line in the NFL with Aaron Smith at left defensive end, Pro Bowl nose tackle Casey Hampton and Brett Keisel at right defensive end. The problem for them is one of depth and if Tomlin ever wants to use a 4-3, he must find defensive linemen first.

Hampton and Smith are ideal in the 3-4. Hampton is a squat ball of muscle and quick-twitch fiber that clogs things up for the linebackers and causes havoc in the middle. Smith can stop the run or put heat on the passer. He and Keisel pressure the passer better than anyone on the team, combining for 44 quarterback pressures to just 23 for the two starting outside linebackers.

Chris Hoke is a capable backup to Hampton, but if the Steelers moved to a 4-3 defense, they'd have to go with Smith and Hampton at tackles, Keisel at end and find another end. They did draft end Ryan McBean on the fourth round.

RATING: 8

LINEBACKERS

Tomlin took one look at his decimated group of outside linebackers and predicted, "We're going to get great outside linebacker play."

And he said that long before the draft, after the Steelers released Joey Porter. The Steelers have a long tradition of great play here, especially on the outside in the 3-4 defense they've used for a quarter century. Back is returning starter Clark Haggans on the left with backup James Harrison moving into Porter's role on the right.

They moved decidedly to restock by selecting outside linebackers 1-2 in the draft for the first time in their history: Lawrence Timmons and LaMarr Woodley. Neither will start as rookies barring injuries, but both will provide depth and a future at the position. Woodley will play as a situational

Steelers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
81	Baker, Dallas	6-3	206	R	Florida	0/0	D7 07	D7 PITT 07	Rookie with good production last two years; little speed.
10	**Holmes, Santonio**	**5-11**	**189**	**2**	**Ohio State**	**16/4**	**D1 06**	**D1 PITT 06**	**Caught more passes than any rookie in AFC last season.**
11	Marshall, Rasheed	6-1	188	2	West Virginia	0/0	FA 07	D5 SF 05	Former West Virginia quarterback, trying to follow in Randle El's shoes.
83	**Miller, Heath (TE)**	**6-5**	**256**	**3**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 PITT 05**	**Big-target tight end; Steelers have relied more on his blocking than his receiving ability.**
15	*Reid, Willie (KR)	5-10	186	2	Florida State	1/0	D3 06	D3 PITT 06	Rookie season amounted to one game. More of a return specialist.
89	Spaeth, Matt (TE)	6-7	270	R	Minnesota	0/0	D3 07	D3 PITT 07	Rookie No. 3 pick is tallest receiver on the roster.
84	Tuman, Jerame (TE)	6-4	253	9	Michigan	15/4	D5 99	D5 PITT 99	Long-time No. 2 tight end at a position that has few prospects on the roster.
86	**Ward, Hines**	**6-0**	**205**	**10**	**Georgia**	**14/14**	**D3 98**	**D3 PITT 98**	**Four-time Pro Bowler who shows no signs of slowing down.**
85	Washington, Nate	6-1	185	3	Tiffin	16/2	FA 05	OFA PITT 05	He'll have to compete to maintain the No. 3 job he held last season.
80	Wilson, Cedrick	5-10	183	9	Tennessee	15/12	UFA,SF 05	D6 SF 01	Lost starting job to Holmes by the end of the season. Could be No. 3.
18	Young, Walter	6-4	220	2	Illinois	2/0	FA 07	D7 CAR0 03	Tallest wide receiver on the roster and an annual candidate to make the team.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
74	Colon, Willie (T)	6-3	315	2	Hofstra	2/2	D4 06	D4 PITT 06	Started several games as a rookie; will compete at right tackle with Starks.
79	Essex, Trai (T)	6-4	324	3	Northwestern	15/0	D3 05	D3 PITT 05	Passed by Colon as top backup and must scramble for roster spot.
66	**Faneca, Alan (G)**	**6-5**	**307**	**10**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**D1 98**	**D1 PITT 98**	**Six-time Pro Bowl guard that may be in his final year with Steelers.**
68	Kemoeatu, Chris (G)	6-3	344	3	Utah	3/2	D6 05	D6 PITT 05	Top backup at guard, he'll push Simmons for starting spot.
61	**Mahan, Sean (C/G)**	**6-3**	**301**	**5**	**Notre Dame**	**16/12**	**UFA,TB 07**	**D5 TB 03**	**Signed as free agent from Bucs to replace retired center Jeff Hartings.**
56	Okobi, Chukky (C)	6-1	305	7	Purdue	15/2	D5 01	D5 PITT 01	Heir apparent at center, his future in doubt if Mahan wins the job.
62	Philip, Marvin (C)	6-1	307	2	California	0/0	D6 06	D6 PITT 06	Second-year center, could rise to No. 2 if Okobi is not kept.
73	**Simmons, Kendall (G)**	**6-3**	**315**	**6**	**Auburn**	**14/14**	**D1 02**	**D1 PITT 02**	**Former No. 1 pick in final year of his contract. Also can play center.**
77	**Smith, Marvel (T)**	**6-5**	**321**	**8**	**Arizona State**	**16/16**	**D2 00**	**D2 PITT 00**	**Good left tackle who can move right if Steelers find someone else for left side.**
78	**Starks, Max (T)**	**6-8**	**337**	**4**	**Florida**	**14/14**	**D3 04**	**D3 PITT 04**	**Two-year starter at right tackle, signed for $1.85 million as a restricted free agent.**
65	Stephenson, Cameron (G)	6-4	305	R	Rutgers	0/0	D5 07	D5 PITT 07	Fifth-round draft choice will join mix to try to earn a backup job.
RUNNING BACKS									
22	Barlow, Kevan	6-1	234	7	Pittsburgh	12/3	FA 07	D3 SF 01	Should provide one-two punch with Willie Parker.
44	Davenport, Najeh	6-1	247	6	Miami	13/0	FA 06	D4 GB 02	Re-signed as free agent to compete for No. 2 job and third-down back.
35	**Kreider, Dan (FB)**	**5-11**	**255**	**7**	**New Hampshire**	**16/12**	**FA 00**	**OFA PITT 00**	**Traditionally only fullback on roster. Good blocker, doesn't touch the ball.**
42	Kuhn, John	6-0	255	2	Shippensburg	0/0	FA 06	OFA PITT 05	Good size, put on roster late last year. Will scramble to make it.
39	**Parker, Willie**	**5-10**	**209**	**3**	**North Carolina**	**16/16**	**OFA 04**	**OFA PITT 04**	**Surprise star who didn't get drafted, proved in 2006 he's no fluke.**
QUARTERBACKS									
16	Batch, Charlie	6-2	216	10	Eastern Michigan	8/1	FA 02	D2 DET 98	Valuable, savvy veteran backup. Started first game and won in 2006.
7	**Roethlisberger, Ben**	**6-5**	**241**	**4**	**Miami (Ohio)**	**15/15**	**D1 04**	**D1 PITT 04**	**Many physical setbacks last season after sensational first two seasons.**
2	St. Pierre, Brian	6-3	230	4	Boston College	0/0	FA 06	D5 PITT 03	Fourth-year pro. He's likely to stick if Steelers want to keep three.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
93	Eason, Nick (E)	6-3	305	5	Clemson	13/3	UFA,CLV 07	D4 DEN 03	Signed as unrestricted free agent from Cleveland to provide backup help.
98	**Hampton, Casey (NT)**	**6-1**	**325**	**7**	**Texas**	**15/15**	**D1 01**	**D1 PITT 01**	**Three-time Pro Bowl nose tackle, a perfect fit for the position.**
76	Hoke, Chris (NT)	6-2	305	7	Brigham Young	16/1	FA 02	OFA PITT 01	Long-time backup to Casey Hampton; started half of the 2004 season.
99	**Keisel, Brett (E)**	**6-5**	**285**	**6**	**Brigham Young**	**16/16**	**D7 02**	**D7 PITT 02**	**Outstanding pass rusher who would benefit from moving outside in a 4-3.**
90	Kirschke, Travis (E)	6-3	298	11	UCLA	16/0	UFA,SF 04	OFA DET 97	Backup end who will be 33 when the season starts.
69	McBean, Ryan (E)	6-5	290	R	Oklahoma State	0/0	D4 07	D4 PITT 07	Rookie fourth-rounder, should land a job as a backup.
96	Nua, Shaun (E)	6-5	280	2	Brigham Young	0/0	FA 07	D7 PITT 05	Tall 2005 draft choice at end who has not been able to make his mark.
91	**Smith, Aaron (E)**	**6-5**	**298**	**9**	**Northern Colorado**	**16/16**	**D4 99**	**D4 PITT 99**	**Steelers believe he's the best 3-4 end in the NFL. Can rush, stop run.**
LINEBACKERS									
51	**Farrior, James (I)**	**6-2**	**243**	**11**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**UFA,NYJ 02**	**D1 NYJ 97**	**Nice, all-around inside linebacker who stays on field in passing situations.**
50	**Foote, Larry (I)**	**6-1**	**239**	**6**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**D4 02**	**D4 PITT 02**	**Good run-stopping inside 'backer who was 1-2 in tackles past two seasons.**
53	**Haggans, Clark (O)**	**6-4**	**243**	**8**	**Colorado State**	**15/15**	**D5 00**	**D5 PITT 00**	**Three-year starter on the strong side with good rush ability.**
97	*Harrison, Arnold	6-3	241	2	Georgia	7/2	FA 05	OFA PITT 05	ACL surgery last November. Ready to go by training camp.
92	**Harrison, James (O)**	**6-0**	**242**	**4**	**Kent State**	**11/1**	**FA 04**	**OFA PITT 02**	**Non-drafted, moves up after good backup job past three years.**
57	Kriewaldt,, Clint (I)	6-1	248	9	Wisconsin-Stevens Point	14/0	UFA,DET 03	D6 DET 99	Backup inside linebacker and special teams co-captain past few years.
47	Stanley, Ronald	6-0	244	1	Michigan State	1/0	FA 07	OFA PITT 05	Someone to fill out the roster at a position where depth is a problem.
94	Timmons, Lawrence (O)	6-1	234	R	Florida State	0/0	D1 07	D1 PITT 07	Top rookie will see most action on special teams this year.
54	Wallace, Rian (I)	6-3	243	3	Temple	12/0	D5 05	D5 PITT 05	Drafted as inside linebacker, he also practices on outside because of lack of depth there.
55	Woodley, LaMarr (O)	6-2	265	R	Michigan	0/0	D2 07	D2 PITT 07	Converting from defensive end to outside linebacker and will be used on third downs this season.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
23	Carter, Tyrone (S)	5-9	195	8	Minnesota	16/3	FA 04	D4 MINN 00	Backup strong safety and valuable special-teams player; re-signed as unrestricted free agent.
25	Clark, Ryan (S)	5-11	205	6	Louisiana State	13/12	UFA,SEA 06	OFA NYG 02	Lost starting job to rookie Anthony Smith near end of the season.
21	*Colclough, Ricardo (CB)	5-11	195	4	Tusculum	3/0	D2 04	D2 PITT 04	Has done little in his first three seasons; last chance at cornerback in '07.
22	Gay, William (CB)	5-10	190	R	Louisville	0/0	D5 07	D5 PITT 07	Small, feisty rookie; he'll have to cut it on special teams first.
29	*Iwuoma, Chidi (CB)	5-9	184	7	California	5/0	FA 06	OFA DET 01	Strictly a special-teams performer. A luxury to keep on the team.
28	Johnson, Jovon (CB)	5-9	177	1	Iowa	2/0	FA 06	OFA NYJ 06	Added to the roster at mid-season because of injuries. Long shot.
37	Madison, Anthony (CB)	5-9	180	2	Alabama	13/0	FA 06	OFA PITT 06	Short, tough corner who is another long shot to make the roster.
20	**McFadden, Bryant (CB)**	**6-0**	**190**	**3**	**Florida State**	**16/9**	**D2 05**	**D2 PITT 05**	**Consistently good since picked in second round of '05 draft.**
43	**Polamalu, Troy (S)**	**5-10**	**207**	**5**	**Southern Cal**	**13/13**	**D1 03**	**D1 PITT 03**	**All-Pro, all-everything strong safety entering the final year of his contract.**
27	**Smith, Anthony (S)**	**5-11**	**192**	**2**	**Syracuse**	**16/4**	**D3 06**	**D3 PITT 06**	**Hard-hitting, active strong safety. Became starter near end of '06.**
24	**Taylor, Ike (CB)**	**6-1**	**191**	**5**	**Louisiana-Lafayette**	**16/11**	**D4 03**	**D4 PITT 03**	**Reinstated after losing job as starting cornerback near end of season. Was great in '05.**
26	Townsend, Deshea (CB)	5-10	190	10	Alabama	16/12	D4 98	D4 PITT 98	Veteran, former starter who likely will become No. 3 cornerback again.
SPECIALISTS									
17	Gardocki, Chris (P)	6-1	192	17	Clemson	16/0	UFA,CLV 04	D3 CHI 91	Just a matter of time until he's removed from the roster.
3	Reed, Jeff (K)	5-11	225	6	North Carolina	16/0	FA 02	OFA NO 02	Needs to reconquer Heinz Field after having perfect road season.
9	Sepulveda, Daniel (P)	6-3	230	R	Baylor	0/0	D4 07	D4 PITT 07	Twice Ray Guy Award winner; Steelers paid steep price to draft him.
60	Warren, Greg (LS)	6-3	252	3	North Carolina	16/0	OFA 05	OFA PITT 05	Flawless long snapper who also is big enough to go down and tackle.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Eric Deslauriers (Eastern Michigan), Eric Fowler (Grand Valley State), Chris Jackson (Millsaps), Gerran Walker (1, Lehigh); TEs Cody Boyd (Washington State), Jon Dekker (1, Princeton); OTs Jason Capizzi (Indiana, Pa.), Brandon Torrey (1, Howard); OG Darnell Stapleton (Rutgers); RB Gary Russell (Minnesota); FBs Carey Davis (1, Illinois), Paul Mosley (Baylor), Aaron Robbins (Wyoming); QB Bryan Randall (1, Virginia Tech); DE Derrick Jones (Grand Valley State); DT Scott Paxson (1, Penn State); LBs Marcello Church (Florida State), Richard Koonce (East Carolina), Derek Rehage (Miami, Ohio); CBs Grant Mason (1, Michigan), Smith (1, California); S Mike Lorello (1, West Virginia); LS Jared Retkofsky (Texas Christian); P Mike Barr (1, Rutgers); PK Connor Hughes (1, Virginia)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Cover 2 vs. the zone blitz. Mike Tomlin has coached the Cover 2 defense his entire six years in the NFL and Dick LeBeau fathered the zone blitz. Tomlin said they will stick with a 3-4 this year, but the scheme could evolve or morph eventually into his familiar territory.

*Tomlin's sideline demeanor. The young coach is emotional, but will he approach the kind of outlandish behavior that Bill Cowher often displayed on the sideline? Cowher once stuffed a photo in a ref's pocket as they walked off the field at halftime.

*One back. There will be more use of four wide receivers and one back this season. That means fullback Dan Kreider won't be on the field as often. Willie Parker may find more running room without Kreider because the defense will be spread out more.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Ben Roethlisberger

To watch the guy playing quarterback for the Steelers last season was to wonder how Tommy Maddox sneaked back onto the team. That wasn't Big Ben out there, it was a fraud, a sham. The guy starting at quarterback had a 7-8 record and threw more interceptions than anyone in the NFL.

Ben Roethlisberger isn't here to blame it on his motorcycle accident, his appendectomy nor his mid-season concussion. He blamed it on himself.

"I think that a lot of times, I got caught being a little too confident and knowing the offense too well and trying to force things a little too much," Roethlisberger said. "It's a learning experience and you know what? It's going to make me better."

The Steelers would like to have the old Ben back, the one who was 27-4 as a starter in his first two seasons. They believe last year was a fluke, and will put even more pressure on him this season. New coordinator Bruce Arians has stirred up the playbook and will have his quarterback call the pass protections, and also will deploy four wide receivers at times on first and second downs.

rusher this year.

Arnold Harrison, who played briefly in his first pro season before a torn ACL put him on injured reserve last October, has the only other experience on the outside.

They're secure on the inside where top two tacklers, James Farrior and Larry Foote return. Clint Kriewaldt and Rian Wallace back up on the inside, and Timmons may also practice there.

RATING: 6.5

SECONDARY

Troy Polamalu isn't quite the perfect example of a Cover 2 safety. "The elite players defy scheme," Tomlin said. "Troy Polamalu's going to be an excellent safety, regardless of what defensive scheme he's in."

The Steelers use their three-time Pro Bowl strong safety all over the field and rarely at all as half of a deep set in a Cover 2, and it's unlikely they'll start doing it with him.

Anthony Smith replaced Ryan Clark as the starter at free safety by the end of the season and should remain there. The Steelers will find plenty of playing time for Clark, though.

Ike Taylor likely will get his job back as a starting cornerback. He lost it last November, but Tomlin reinstalled him as the starter on the left side in the spring and has taken a personal interest in him.

Young Bryant McFadden could overtake 10-year vet Deshea Townsend at right cornerback before training camp ends while the Steelers hope that the light finally goes on for Ricardo Colclough, a former second-round pick.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jeff Reed had a bizarre kicking season. He made 20 of his 27 field-goal tries, but was perfect on the road with all his misses coming at home.

They will have a new punter for the first time in four years: Daniel Sepulveda, who averaged 46.5 yards at Baylor last year.

Santonio Holmes again will be among the leading contenders to return punts — he averaged 10.2 yards on 26 returns with one touchdown last season. He also returned 18 kickoffs. Willie Reid also may return punts and/or kicks. Greg Warren again will handle all of the long snapping.

RATING: 6.5

INTANGIBLES

The players greeted their new coaching staff with genuine enthusiasm in the spring. Still, there is an undercurrent of resentment among some veterans because neither Ken Whisenhunt nor Russ Grimm was named coach, and because of the release of their popular co-captain, Joey Porter.

The Super Bowl is a distant memory and now they need to make sure their old coaching staff is as well.

RATING: Even

— Ed Bouchette

2006 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 7	MIAMI	28-17
Sep. 18	at Jacksonville	0- 9
Sep. 24	CINCINNATI	20-28
Oct. 1	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 8	at San Diego	13-23
Oct. 15	KANSAS CITY	45- 7
Oct. 22	at Atlanta (OT)	38-41
Oct. 29	at Oakland	13-20
Nov. 5	DENVER	20-31
Nov. 12	NEW ORLEANS	38-31
Nov. 19	at Cleveland	24-20
Nov. 26	at Baltimore	0-27
Dec. 3	TAMPA BAY	20-3
Dec. 7	CLEVELAND	27-7
Dec. 17	at Carolina	37-3
Dec. 24	BALTIMORE	7-31
Dec. 31	at Cincinnati (OT)	23-17

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 5	New Orleans (Sun.), Canton	8:00
Aug. 11	GREEN BAY (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 18	at Washington (Sat.)	8:00
Aug. 26	PHILADLPHIA (Sun.)	8:00
Aug. 30	at Carolina (Thu.)	8:00
Sep. 9	at Cleveland	1:00
Sep. 16	BUFFALO	1:00
Sep. 23	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Sep. 30	at Arizona	1:15
Oct. 7	SEATTLE	1:00
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	at Denver	6:15
Oct. 28	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 5	BALTIMORE (Mon.)	8:30
Nov. 11	CLEVELAND	1:00
Nov. 18	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Nov. 26	MIAMI (Mon.)	8:30
Dec. 2	CINCINNATI	8:15
Dec. 9	at New England	1:00
Dec. 16	JACKSONVILLE	1:00
Dec. 20	at St. Louis (Thu.)	7:15
Dec. 30	at Baltimore	1:00

AFC SOUTH

COLTS HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP WINNING

After knocking on the door for four years, the Colts knocked it down and won their first Super Bowl since relocating to Indianapolis in 1983. It was sweet redemption for quarterback Peyton Manning and coach Tony Dungy, who both have been criticized for not winning the big game.

Neither gentleman gloated. It was a triumph for nice guys everywhere. And nobody would be surprised if they win another Super Bowl, or more. But they will have to endure the persistent questions of whether they have what it takes to repeat.

Jacksonville took a step back, giving hope to improving Tennessee and Houston to close the gap on the Colts. It's a large gap, though, and Indianapolis is intent on keeping it that way.

HOUSTON TEXANS

Still looking for their first winning season since 2002 expansion, the Texans turned the page on the David Carr era and traded for heralded Atlanta backup quarterback Matt Schaub. They added running back Ahman Green and left tackle Jordan Black in free agency.

Green, 30, is a short-term answer. The Texans have to hope that Schaub will be able to grow while the team keeps adding to the offense. They devoted their first draft pick to the defensive line for a second year in a row. This team really needs 2006 No. 1 Mario Williams to make everyone in Houston forget about Vince Young and Reggie Bush.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

The front-office tandem of president Bill Polian and coach Tony Dungy are at the top of their game and have their team poised to contend for multiple championships. The Colts lost five key players in free agency, but they always recover.

Despite picking 32nd, the Colts had a strong draft. Their top two picks were used on offense, confounding those who pointed to two free-agent losses on the starting defense. Polian realizes, however, that his team is built on offense first and he must always seek to surround Peyton Manning with the right mix for the Colts to thrive.

They got to the Super Bowl despite being ranked last against the run.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

There is a feeling that Jack Del Rio needs to push his team back into the playoffs in order to survive beyond his fifth season as coach. It's going to be a tall order for him.

The Jaguars drafted defense with their first two picks, ending a four-year run of offensive players. They stood pat at quarterback knowing that Byron Leftwich's contract is up after this season and his body of work may suggest a change of direction. This is a team that may have peaked with a 12-4 dream season two years ago.

TENNESSEEE TITANS

When the Titans crawled out of two years of salary cap hell and reached sea level at 8-8 last season, they parted ways with their general manager of the last 13 years, Floyd Reese. Former Houston Oilers safety Mike Reinfeldt replaced Reese and his first order of business was grappling with a one-year NFL suspension of cornerback and return specialist Adam (Pacman) Jones.

Jones will be missed on the field, not off it, of course. And with quarterback Vince Young at the center of everything, the Titans lost their top two receivers and leading rusher in free agency. It's plain to see that the remaking of the Titans will take a while.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What are the major obstacles in the way of Indianapolis repeating as Super Bowl champs?

Their schedule. They were hit with five prime-time games and the last four are at Jacksonville, San Diego, Atlanta and Baltimore. At least they drew their conquered nemesis, New England, at home.

2. Who will replace Travis Henry as Tennessee's feature back?

It should be a combination of heavy grader LenDale White and rookie blazer Chris Henry. They were the team's second-round draft picks the past two years.

3. Will Pacman Jones ever play again for the Titans?

It may depend on how they fare without him. If his loss is felt all season, they may welcome him back with open arms in 2008 — unless he receives another suspension.

4. How big an improvement is quarterback Matt Schaub over David Carr for Houston?

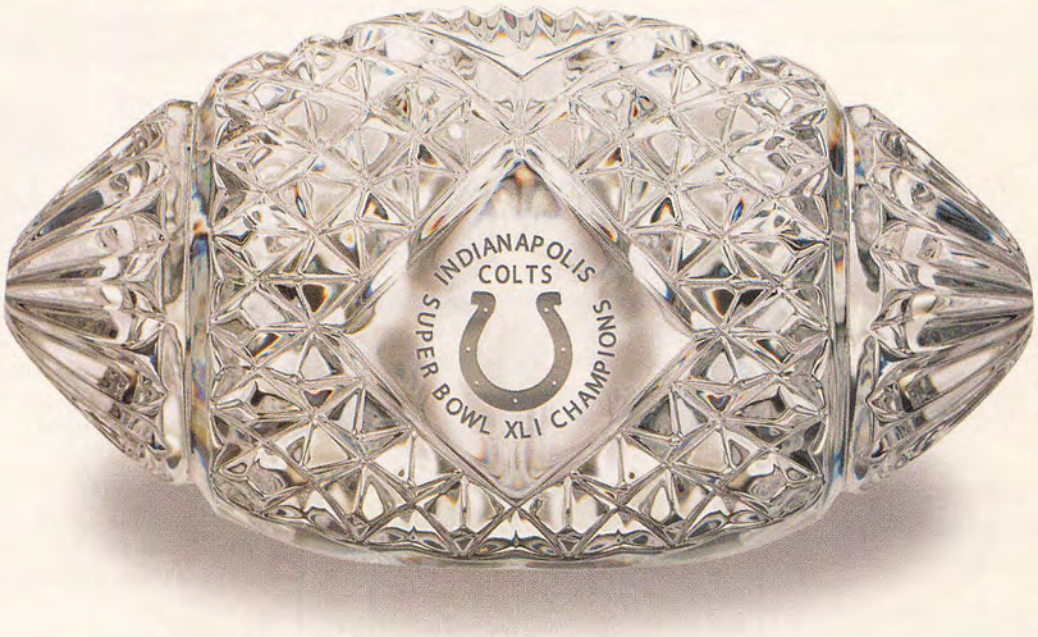
Carr needed a change of scenery and the Texans needed to replace him with a fresh body, unscarred by protection problems. Schaub was on everybody's list as one of the top backups in the NFL. We'll see if he can lead a team now with pressure there from Day 1.

5. What is Byron Leftwich's future in Jacksonville?

It's probably "to be determined." He is difficult to protect, has won about one-half his career starts, and his contract expires after this year. Those could be ingredients for a change. The Jaguars passed on drafting Brady Quinn in the first round.

— Tony Grossi

HAIL TO THE CHAMPIONS!



SUPER COLTS

Bromberg's and Waterford Crystal commemorate the Indianapolis Colts victory in Super Bowl XLI with this beautiful crystal football.

4.5" x 2.5", $185.

Bromberg's
Alabama's Leading Jeweler Since 1836

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED. ORDER AT WWW.BROMBERGS.COM
OR CALL 1-800-633-4616 MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 9:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

HOUSTON TEXANS

2006 RECORD: 6-10 | STADIUM: Reliant Stadium, 71,054, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: T3rd

AFC SOUTH | www.houstontexans.com

AT A GLANCE

Two Reliant Park
Houston, TX 77054
Phone: (832) 667-2000

TRAINING CAMP:
Texans Training Facility, Houston, TX

COACH:
Gary Kubiak, 2nd year with Texans and as NFL head coach (6-10)

GENERAL MANAGER:
Rick Smith

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Dale Strahm

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:
Bobby Grier

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:
Miller McCalmon

COORDINATOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Mike Maccagnan

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Mike Sherman	*Offensive coordinator	11	2
Kyle Shanahan	Quarterbacks	4	2
John Benton	Offensive line	4	2
Frank Pollack	Assistant line	1	1
Chick Harris	Running backs	27	6
Larry Kirksey	Receivers	11	1
Brian Pariani	Tight ends	16	2
Mike McDaniel	Offensive quality control	2	2
Tim Bender	Offensive Assistant	2	2
Richard Smith	Defensive coordinator	20	2
Frank Bush	Senior def. assistant	16	1
Jethro Franklin	Defensive line	7	1
Johnny Holland	Linebackers	13	2
Jon Hoke	Secondary	6	6
Martin Bayless	Assistant secondary	5	2
Robert Saleh	Defensive quality control	2	2
Richard Hightower	Defensive Assistant	2	2
Joe Marciano	Special teams	22	6
Dan Riley	Strength & Conditioning	26	7
Ray Wright	Strength & Conditioning	6	6
Virgil Campbell	Strength & Conditioning	2	2
Everett Coleman	Strength & Conditioning	2	2

*Assistant head coach

Texans Put Their Hope in New Quarterback

The Texans thought it was rough last year when Vince Young defeated them twice, including a heroic, come-from-behind victory in Reliant Stadium. The stakes get raised this year. Not only will Young make his annual trek to Reliant Stadium, but Reggie Bush will also travel to Houston with the New Orleans Saints.

For a franchise that wants to move past its 2006 draft blunder, no one wants to let them. Only one thing will help the Texans silence their critics: Victories.

With a new quarterback in Matt Schaub and a new running back in Ahman Green, the Texans hope they have enough talent to lift the franchise to its first winning record and get people talking about the future instead of the past.

COACHING

Coach Gary Kubiak made some changes to the coaching staff after his first season. He replaced offensive coordinator Troy Calhoun with Mike Sherman, who was an invaluable resource for Kubiak last season as the assistant head coach/offense. The change will hardly be noticeable on the field since Kubiak will continue calling the shots.

While a few changes were made among position coaches, the biggest one was on defense where the Texans were able to attract Jethro Franklin as their defensive line coach and bring in Frank Bush as a senior defensive assistant. They will work together with the defensive line, which is wrapped up in big money and high expectations. The focus will be on trying to speed up Mario Williams' development.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

Matt Schaub will take over the reigns from David Carr and is expected to emerge as an instant leader. The Texans plan to build around his strengths, which include his pocket presence and ability to get rid of the ball. The Texans typically rolled out a lot with Carr, and running isn't one of Schaub's strengths. He will move around some, but not as much as Carr did.

Sage Rosenfels will remain the backup. When he steps on the field, he looks like a quarterback made to run this offense. He has great pocket presence, a good grasp of the offense and is always prepared to play.

The Texans didn't carry a third quarterback on the 53-man roster last season, but that could change this season. Bradlee Van Pelt and undrafted free agent Jared Zabransky will enter camp competing for the job. However, Schaub is clearly the starter for now.

RATING: 6

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
QB Matt Schaub

They paid a hefty price for a quarterback whose reputation has been built on solid preseason statistics. If he fits as well into the Texans' offense as coach Gary Kubiak expects, fans in Atlanta will wish they had traded Michael Vick instead.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Shawn Barber, T Jordan Black, LB Danny Clark, WR Andre Davis, CB Jamar Fletcher, RB Ahman Green, DT Jeff Zgonina

KEY LOSS:
WR Eric Moulds (16/16)*
The Texans felt he ran out of gas last season, but it's still hard to release a Pro Bowler when you only have inexperienced receivers to replace him.

OTHER LOSSES
T Brad Bedell (9/0), QB David Carr (16/16), DT Lional Dalton (8/2), LB Troy Evans (16/0), CB Chris McKenzie (0/0), DT Seth Payne (5/2), DE Antwan Peek (11/2), LB DaShon Polk (10/0), LB Wali Rainer (0/0), CB Lewis Sanders (9/7), S Michael Stone (2/0), G Zach Wiegert (9/9), RB Domanick Williams (0/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 8 offense, 11 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

RUNNING BACKS

The Texans have a stable of running backs. Unlike last year, they even have a proven starter. The Texans look for Ahman Green to march toward his seventh 1,000-yard season. He is a power runner, expected to succeed in the Texans' zone-blocking scheme. The Texans want to build the offense around Green and the running game.

Green will get the majority of the carries since the Texans have little interest in going with the running back-by-committee they were forced into last year. The Texans do want to utilize Ron Dayne, though. He was solid for them in the last month of the season, especially in the victory over the Colts when he rushed for 153 yards.

Wali Lundy, Chris Taylor and Samkon Gado will be in a fierce competition with each other for the other roster spot.

RATING: 7

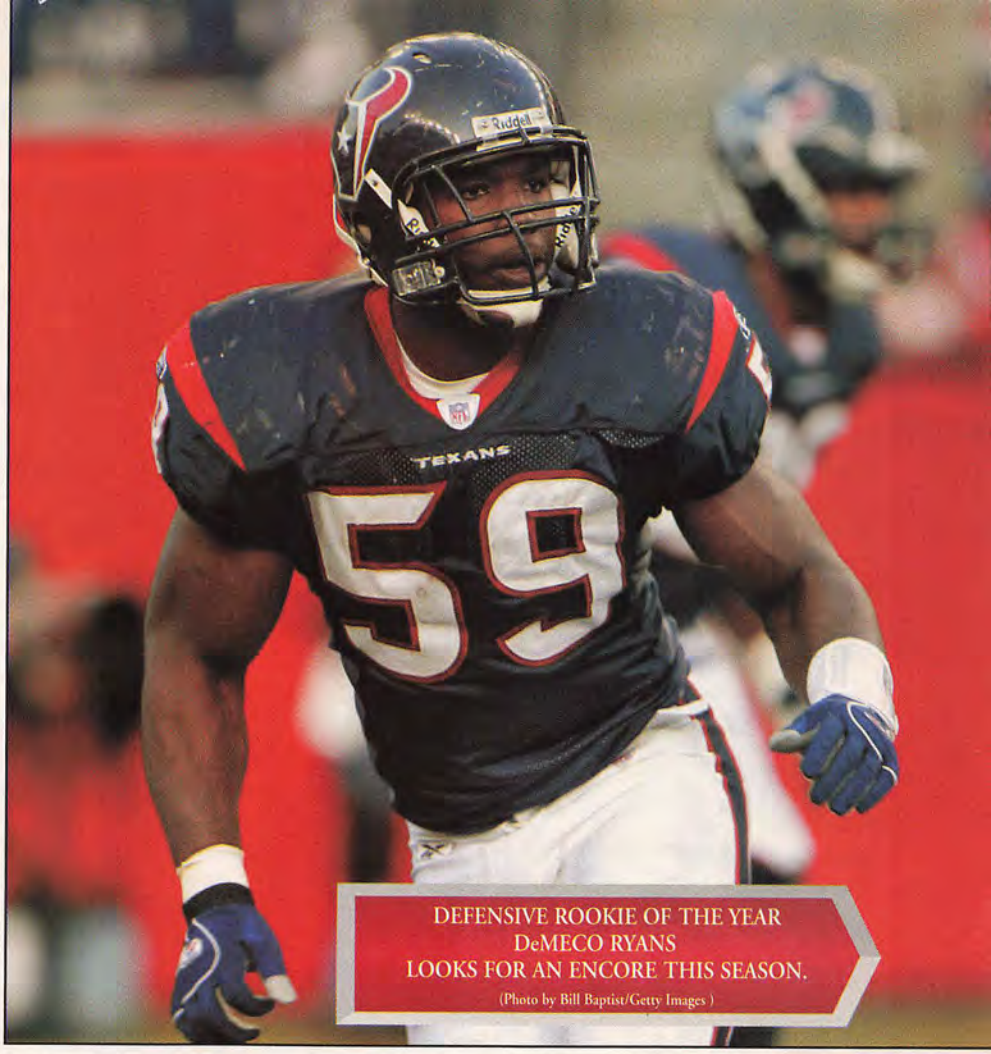
RECEIVERS

Andre Johnson returns from another trip to the Pro Bowl. The Texans want to make that an annual trek for him, but it won't work unless they find him a sidekick capable of distracting defenses. Last season, he led the league in receptions with 103. It was quite a feat considering how defenses were able to key on him. In December, he had five or few receptions in four games.

Kevin Walter hopes to be the answer. He will start opposite of Johnson. Kubiak likes the potential of Walter, who has just 47 career receptions — 17 of which came last year. Rookie Jacoby Jones will also challenge for playing time, along with Charlie Adams, Jerome Mathis, David Anderson and Andre' Davis.

Owen Daniels will return as the dual-threat tight end. An injury cut his rookie season short, and the Texans hope durability does not become an issue with him. Mark Bruener proved to be a solid target last year, but was used primarily in short yardage and blocking situations. Jeb Putzier, who has good hands, was used in longer yardage situations.

RATING: 7



DEFENSIVE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR DeMECO RYANS LOOKS FOR AN ENCORE THIS SEASON.

(Photo by Bill Baptist/Getty Images)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Despite concern that Charles Spencer will not be healthy by the season opener, the Texans did not use a high draft pick for a young, left tackle. Instead, the Texans expect to start veteran tackle Jordan Black and use Ephraim Salaam as a reliable reserve.

The offensive line, as a whole, will remain quite familiar. Right tackle Zach Wiegert was released, allowing Eric Winston to retain the job he took over when Wiegert was sidelined with a knee injury. Chester Pitts and Fred Weary remain at guard, while Steve McKinney will likely factor into that rotation.

McKinney may also make a push to get back his starting job at center. Mike Flanagan and Drew Hodgdon struggled at times last year, and McKinney was under center for the Texans' final two games — both victories.

RATING: 6

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This is where much of the team's money and expectations are tied this season. The Texans want the pass rush to finally be effective. The addition of Amobi Okoye should help. The team has lacked an aggressive, quick, pass-rush threat in the middle. If he is productive, he will divert attention away from Mario Williams, freeing him up to make plays of his own.

With Okoye starting, Travis Johnson and Anthony Maddox will be in an intense competition for the other starting job. It's likely that the players will fit into a rotation, similar to last season when eight players constantly rotated in and out of the line to stay fresh.

At end, Williams and Anthony Weaver will start. Jason Babin will come off the bench as a situational pass rusher. He led the team in sacks last season, and with Antwan Peek no longer on the team, Babin should get more opportunities.

N.D. Kalu, Jeff Zgonina and Thomas Johnson will be the top reserves.

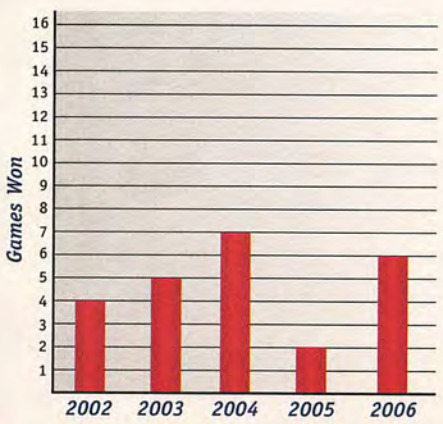
RATING: 7

LINEBACKERS

The Texans return all of their starters from a year ago, including DeMeco Ryans, the Defensive Rookie of the Year. A big focus of free agency was strengthening the depth at linebacker and making the unit faster. Danny Clark and Shawn Barber both joined the mix, and will likely compete for one of the starting jobs on the outside.

Morlon Greenwood started slow last season but finished strong, compiling one of his best seasons in

WINS PER YEAR



** Started Play in 2002*

Texans Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
19	Adams, Charlie	6-2	210	3	Hofstra	0/0	FA 07	OFA DEN 02	Quality backup who lacks speed, but plays smart and is coachable.
89	Anderson, David	5-10	197	2	Colorado State	9/0	FA 06	D7 HOUS 06	Lacks experience, but plays hard and has good attitude.
87	Bruener, Mark (TE)	6-4	256	13	Washington	15/4	FA 04	D1 PITT 95	Remains one of the best blocking tight ends in the league.
81	**Daniels, Owen (TE)**	**6-3**	**246**	**2**	**Wisconsin**	**14/12**	**D4 06**	**D4 HOUS 06**	**Dual-threat tight end with great potential. Needs to stay healthy.**
11	Davis, Andre'	6-1	195	6	Virginia Tech	16/1	UFA,BUFF 07	D2 CLV 02	Hopes to find home in Houston — his fourth city in four years.
85	Dreessen, Joel (TE)	6-4	260	2	Colorado State	0/0	FA 07	D6 NYJ 05	Going to be hard to set himself apart from other tight ends on roster.
80	**Johnson, Andre**	**6-3**	**222**	**5**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 HOUS 03**	**Team's star. Working hard on relationship with Schaub.**
12	Jones, Jacoby (KR)	6-2	210	R	Lane	0/0	D4 07	D3 HOU 07	Great speed and hands. Still raw but has great potential.
13	*Mathis, Jerome (KR)	5-11	184	3	Hampton	2/0	D4 05	D4 HOUS 05	Great kick returner. Durability is a major concern.
88	Putzier, Jeb (TE)	6-4	251	6	Boise State	14/5	UFA,DEN 06	D6 DEN 02	Valuable as receiving option in two-tight end sets.
82	*Steele, Ben (TE)	6-5	245	3	Mesa State	0/0	FA 06	OFA SF 01	Coming back after missing all of last season with a knee injury.
83	**Walter, Kevin**	**6-3**	**215**	**5**	**Eastern Michigan**	**16/2**	**RFA,CIN 06**	**D7 NYG 03**	**Skilled, physical receiver with great hands. No. 2 job is his to lose.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
72	Black, Jordan (T)	6-5	310	5	Notre Dame	16/15	UFA,KC 07	D5 KC 03	Instinctive and intelligent. Played every position on the line.
58	***Flanagan, Mike (C)**	**6-5**	**303**	**12**	**UCLA**	**9/9**	**UFA,GB 06**	**D3 GB 96**	**Has always been one of the league's best centers when healthy.**
75	Frye, Brandon (T)	6-4	300	R	Virginia Tech	0/0	D5 07	D5 HOU 07	Great athleticism and speed, but is still very raw.
57	Hodgdon, Drew (C)	6-3	291	3	Arizona State	9/5	D5 05	D5 HOUS 05	Young player who struggled when given chance to start last year.
62	Jackson, Scott (C)	6-4	302	3	Brigham Young	0/0	FA 06	OFA TB 04	Tall offensive tackle that is quick on his feet.
76	McKinney, Steve (G)	6-4	305	10	Texas A&M	16/6	UFA,IND 02	D4 IND 98	Invaluable backup on offensive line at center and guard.
69	**Pitts, Chester (G)**	**6-4**	**322**	**6**	**San Diego State**	**16/16**	**D2 02**	**D2 HOUS 02**	**Quick, physical lineman, who has jumped between tackle and guard.**
74	Salaam, Ephraim (T)	6-7	302	10	San Diego State	15/13	UFA,JAX 06	D7 ATL 98	Ferocious competitor who played through a number of injuries last year.
77	***Spencer, Charles (T)**	**6-4**	**337**	**2**	**Pittsburgh**	**2/2**	**D3 06**	**D3 HOUS 06**	**Still only 50-50 that he'll be back from serious knee injury.**
64	Studdard, Kasey (G)	6-3	310	R	Texas	0/0	D5 07	D6 HOUS 07	Hard-working rookie who could push himself into a rotation.
70	**Weary, Fred (G)**	**6-4**	**307**	**6**	**Tennessee**	**15/12**	**D3 02**	**D3 HOUS 02**	**Powerful lineman with solid size, strength and footwork.**
63	White, Chris (C)	6-2	293	3	Southern Mississippi	0/0	FA 07	OFA GB 05	Outstanding athlete and sound technician can play guard or center.
73	**Winston, Eric (T)**	**6-5**	**307**	**2**	**Miami**	**12/7**	**D3 06**	**D3 HOUS 06**	**Made tremendous progress last season as a right tackle.**
RUNNING BACKS									
43	*Cook, Jameel (FB)	5-10	237	7	Illinois	11/6	UFA,TB 06	D6 TB 01	Solid blocker, but struggled last year to hold onto the ball.
36	Dayne, Ron	5-10	245	8	Wisconsin	11/6	FA 06	D1 NYG 00	Returns to be used primarily in short-yardage situations.
35	Gado, Samkon	5-10	226	3	Liberty	9/1	T,GB 06	OFA KC 05	Struggled to get into a rhythm last season with Texans.
30	**Green, Ahman**	**6-0**	**218**	**9**	**Nebraska**	**14/14**	**UFA,GB 07**	**D3 SEA 98**	**Tremendous power runner with one or two 1,000-yard seasons left.**
44	**Leach, Vonta (FB)**	**6-0**	**250**	**4**	**East Carolina**	**12/5**	**FA 06**	**OFA GB 04**	**Ferocious blocker. Invaluable to running game last season.**
33	Lundy, Wali	5-10	211	2	Virginia	14/8	D6 06	D6 HOUS 06	Wants to prove he deserves another chance for starting job.
27	Taylor, Chris	6-0	224	1	Indiana	4/0	FA 06	OFA HOUS 06	Young, power runner, who could be the surprise of training camp.
QUARTERBACKS									
5	Porter, Quinton	6-5	228	1	Boston College	0/0	FA 06	OFA HOUS 06	Will compete with Van Pelt for No. 3 job.
18	*Rosenfels, Sage	6-2	224	7	Iowa State	4/0	UFA,MIA 06	D4 WSH 01	Well-prepared. Can always step in and execute this offense.
8	**Schaub, Matt**	**6-5**	**237**	**4**	**Virginia**	**16/0**	**T,ATL 07**	**D3 ATL 04**	**Hopes to find creative ways of connecting with Johnson.**
10	Van Pelt, Bradlee	6-2	220	2	Colorado State	0/0	FA 06	D7 DEN 04	Great feet, but has issues with accuracy.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
93	Babin, Jason (E)	6-2	267	4	Western Michigan	15/3	D1 04	D1 HOUS 04	Big year for Babin to prove he can be valuable in 4-3 scheme.
79	Bulman, Tim (T)	6-4	292	2	Boston College	0/0	FA 06	OFA ARIZ 05	Young, strong tackle hoping to contribute in his third NFL season.
60	Cochran, Earl (E)	6-5	272	2	Alabama State	1/0	FA 06	OFA GB 03	Athletic, young tackle who saw first NFL action in season finale of '06.
96	Johnson, Thomas (T)	6-2	302	3	Middle Tennessee State	11/4	FA 06	OFA DALL 05	Physical tackle, who played well in reserve duty last year.
99	***Johnson, Travis (T)**	**6-3**	**315**	**3**	**Florida State**	**9/8**	**D1 05**	**D1 HOUS 05**	**Out to save his job after two disappointing seasons.**
94	Kalu, N.D. (E)	6-3	265	11	Rice	15/3	UFA,PHA 06	D5 PHA 97	Versatile, veteran reserve who is invaluable as a leader.
78	Killings, Cedric (T)	6-3	310	6	Carson-Newman	4/0	FA 06	OFA SF 00	Played well as a backup. Strong against the run.
95	Maddox, Anthony (T)	6-1	295	3	Delta State	12/9	FA 06	D4 JAX 04	If plays like last year, he will win starting job.
97	*Malone, Alfred (T)	6-5	308	2	Troy	2/0	FA 05	OFA HOUS 05	Athletic. Adjusted well to playing tackle in 4-3 last season.
91	**Okoye, Amobi (T)**	**6-2**	**302**	**R**	**Louisville**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 HOU 07**	**Could be dominant pass-rusher. Texans unconcerned he's barely 20.**
98	***Weaver, Anthony (E)**	**6-3**	**286**	**6**	**Notre Dame**	**16/16**	**UFA,BLT 06**	**D2 BLT 02**	**Versatile and explosive end that lines up at tackle in passing situations.**
90	**Williams, Mario (E)**	**6-6**	**293**	**2**	**North Carolina State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 HOUS 06**	**With plantar fasciitis gone, he should make huge strides.**
92	Zgonina, Jeff (T)	6-2	290	14	Purdue	14/2	UFA,MIA 07	D7 PITT 93	Adds depth inside and provides veteran leadership.
LINEBACKERS									
50	Anderson, Charlie	6-4	245	4	Mississippi	13/0	D6 04	D6 HOUS 04	Long arms, great athleticism. Good special teams player.
51	Barber, Shawn (O)	6-2	240	10	Richmond	13/1	UFA,PHA 07	D4 WSH 98	Play-making and cerebral linebacker capable of starting.
55	Clark, Danny (O)	6-2	245	8	Illinois	16/0	UFA,NO 07	D7 JAX 00	Brings more experience and speed to unit.
54	Diles, Zach (M)	6-2	230	R	Kansas State	0/0	D7 07	D7 HOUS 07	Athletic middle linebacker, whose quickness could help unit.
56	**Greenwood, Morlon (O)**	**6-0**	**234**	**7**	**Syracuse**	**16/16**	**UFA,MIA 05**	**D3 MIA 01**	**Hopes to build on arguably his best season as a pro in '06.**
53	**Orr, Shantee (O)**	**6-0**	**246**	**4**	**Michigan**	**16/11**	**FA 04**	**OFA GB 03**	**Compact, explosive linebacker with good instincts.**
59	**Ryans, DeMeco (M)**	**6-1**	**239**	**2**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 HOUS 06**	**Quick, instinctive linebacker with potential to be one of league's best.**
52	Wong, Kailee (M)	6-2	244	10	Stanford	10/0	UFA,MINN 02	D2 MINN 98	Aggressive and versatile linebacker with great leadership on the field.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
28	*Alexander, Roc (CB)	5-10	190	4	Washington	1/0	FA 07	OFA DEN 04	Hopes to rebound from season-ending injury in '06 opener.
32	Bennett, Fred (CB)	6-1	199	R	South Carolina	0/0	D4 07	D4 HOUS 07	Rejoins Robinson, former college teammate. Likely team's nickel back.
24	**Brown, C.C. (S)**	**6-0**	**204**	**3**	**Louisiana-Lafayette**	**15/15**	**D6 05**	**D6 HOUS 05**	**Hard-hitting safety with good speed. Plays free safety, but is true strong safety.**
26	**Earl, Glenn (S)**	**6-1**	**213**	**4**	**Notre Dame**	**15/15**	**D4 04**	**D4 HOUS 04**	**Aggressive, physical safety, who was solid as starter last season.**
38	**Faggins, Demarcus (CB)**	**5-10**	**179**	**6**	**Kansas State**	**11/10**	**FA 03**	**D6 HOUS 02**	**Can make big plays, but sometimes gives up big plays.**
21	Fletcher, Jamar (CB)	5-10	186	7	Wisconsin	13/2	UFA,DET 07	D1 MIA 01	Has potential to make big plays. Will try to become nickel back.
31	Harrison, Brandon (S)	6-2	215	R	Stanford	0/0	D5 07	D5 HOUS 07	May switch to free safety and try to make impact on special teams.
29	Horton, Jason (CB)	6-0	190	3	North Carolina A&T	0/0	FA 07	OFA GB 04	Looking to get back in the league after not playing in 2006.
34	Hutchins, Von (CB)	5-10	180	4	Mississippi	3/0	FA 06	D6 IND 04	Could be option to move to free safety after playing there in college.
20	McCleon, Dexter (CB)	5-10	195	10	Clemson	16/5	FA 06	D2 STL 97	Played well as reserve, pulled down one interception in 2006.
23	**Robinson, Dunta (CB)**	**5-10**	**180**	**4**	**South Carolina**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 HOUS 04**	**Leader of secondary. Physical, playmaker who hits hard.**
22	Simmons, Jason (CB)	5-9	204	10	Arizona State	16/3	UFA,PITT 02	D5 PITT 98	Veteran leader who has played every position in secondary for Texans.
40	Walker, John (S)	6-1	204	1	Southern Cal	0/0	FA 06	OFA HOUS 06	Young player with upside, who spent last season on practice squad.
25	Wynn, Dexter (CB)	5-9	177	4	Colorado State	15/0	W,PHA 06	D6 PHA 04	Emerged as strong reserve and valued kick and punt returner.
SPECIALISTS									
3	Brown, Kris (K)	5-11	208	9	Nebraska	16/0	RFA,PITT 02	D7 PITT 99	Struggled in middle of last season, but finished strong.
48	Pittman, Bryan (LS)	6-3	282	5	Washington	16/0	FA 03	OFA CLV 03	Texans never worry about Pittman, who's as reliable as they come.
7	Stanley, Chad (P)	6-3	209	8	Stephen F. Austin	16/0	FA 02	OFA SF 99	Solid punter, who consistently lost his focus on the road last year.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; VA=Veteran Allocation.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Onrea Jones (Hampton), Terry Richardson (Arizona State), Harry Williams (1, Tuskegee); TE Luke Smith-Anderson (Idaho); OT TavoTupola (Utah); OGs Mike Brisiel (1, Colorado State), Atlas Herrion (1, Alabama); C/G Enoka Lucas (Oregon State); QB Jared Zabransky (Boise State); RB Darius Walker (Notre Dame); FB Cory Anderson (Tennessee); DEs Victor DeGrate (Oklahoma State), DeJuan Robinson (Mississippi State); LBs Jon Abbate (Wake Forest), Trent Bray (1, Oregon State); CB Derrick Roberson (Rutgers); S Brandon Mitchell (Ohio State); P Eric Wilbur (Florida)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Victories. If Ahman Green and the defensive line stay healthy, the Texans should record the franchise's first winning season. They made a four-game improvement last season and should be good enough to finish 9-7 this year.

*Big games. Watch to see how the Texans react in the biggest games of the season. It will be emotional for team personnel and fans when Reggie Bush and Vince Young each visit Reliant Stadium. Young humiliated them last season.

*De-FENCE. Just like at the end of last season, the Texans will rely heavily on their defense. Another year of the 4-3 and an improved pass rush could mean good things. If nothing else, the defense should at least keep the Texans in tight games.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Mario Williams

When the Texans drafted Mario Williams they drew up a contract guaranteeing the pass rushing end $26.5 million over the first two years of his $54 million, six-year deal. With 4.5 sacks last season, the Texans want a little more return in their investment this year.

Sure, Williams played through the terrible pain of plantar fasciitis. But he didn't practice, and therefore he wasn't able to improve. He also hasn't been a model citizen off the field — something the Texans value. A video surfaced online in April of Williams speeding in his Lamborghini, while his passenger videotaped it. After denying he went faster than 120 mph like the video suggests, Williams did apologize for his actions.

If Williams doesn't mature off the field and start producing on the field, the public relations nightmare the Texans created when they drafted him over Vince Young and Reggie Bush will never end. This off-season, the Texans brought in two defensive assistants — Frank Bush and Jethro Franklin — to work with the defensive line. It's no surprise that their main objective will be to get Williams to start making big strides.

the NFL. Shantee Orr struggled to adjust to the 4-3, but played solid as the season wore on.

Ryans will be the unquestioned leader of the unit. He surprised many with an outstanding rookie season that included leading the entire league in solo tackles. Linebackers coach Johnny Holland has done an outstanding job with this group, and they should show even more improvement this season.

RATING: 8

SECONDARY

The Texans hope for big plays as they return all four starters from a year ago. In three of the last five seasons, the Texans have ranked in the league's bottom five in interceptions. If the defensive line is successful with its pass rush this season, that should change.

Dunta Robinson and Demarcus Faggins will start at cornerback. C.C. Brown and Glenn Earl will start at free safety and strong safety, respectively. One of the problems is that Brown and Earl are both strong safeties. The Texans don't have a true safety that can help them against the run. The Texans need a physical presence to bring down running backs in the open field.

Free agent Jamar Fletcher will compete with Fred Bennett to replace nickel back Lewis Sanders. The Texans also have quite a bit of depth on the bench, which includes rookie Brandon Harrison, Michael Stone, Von Hutchins, Dexter McCleon and Jason Simmons.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Everyone returns despite some ups and downs in virtually every area last season. Kris Brown missed five of his six field-goal attempts during a rough stretch in the middle of the season, but seemed to straighten out the problems in December. Punter Chad Stanley had one of his most disappointing seasons, struggling to punt well away from home. Long snapper Bryan Pittman is as good as it gets.

The Texans hope they've improved the return game with the addition of rookie Jacoby Jones. Former All-Pro returner Jerome Mathis is back, but must prove he can stay on the field and contribute or he will lose his job. With Mathis often injured last season, Dexter Wynn stepped in and was solid on punts and kickoffs. He will likely return punts again.

RATING: 6

INTANGIBLES

The Texans have a coaching staff that started infusing an entirely new attitude in its locker room last season. With a successful finish, which included defeating the eventual Super Bowl Champion Colts, the Texans enter the season with an aura of confidence that has never been there before.

RATING: Plus 2

— Megan Manfull

2006 RESULTS

Record: 6-10

Sep. 10	PHILADELPHIA	10-24
Sep. 17	at Indianapolis	24-43
Sep. 24	WASHINGTON	15-31
Oct. 1	MIAMI	17-15
Oct. 8	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 15	at Dallas	6-34
Oct. 22	JACKSONVILLE	27- 7
Oct. 29	at Tennessee	22-28
Nov. 5	at N.Y. Giants	10-14
Nov. 12	at Jacksonville	13-10
Nov. 19	BUFFALO	21-24
Nov. 26	at N.Y. Jets	11-26
Dec. 3	at Oakland	23-14
Dec. 10	TENNESSEE (OT)	20-26
Dec. 17	at New England	7-40
Dec. 24	INDIANAPOLIS	27-24
Dec. 31	CLEVELAND	14- 6

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	CHICAGO (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 18	at Arizona (Sat.)	1:00
Aug. 25	DALLAS (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 30	at Tampa Bay (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	KANSAS CITY	12:00
Sep. 16	at Carolina	1:00
Sep. 23	INDIANAPOLIS	12:00
Sep. 30	at Atlanta	1:00
Oct. 7	MIAMI	12:00
Oct. 14	at Jacksonville	1:00
Oct. 21	TENNESSEE	12:00
Oct. 28	at San Diego	1:05
Nov. 4	at Oakland	1:15
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	NEW ORLEANS	12:00
Nov. 25	at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 2	at Tennessee	12:00
Dec. 9	TAMPA BAY	12:00
Dec. 13	DENVER (Thu.)	7:15
Dec. 23	at Indianapolis	1:00
Dec. 30	JACKSONVILLE	12:00

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

2006 RECORD: 16-4 | STADIUM: RCA Dome, 55,531, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

AFC SOUTH | www.colts.com

AT A GLANCE

P.O. Box 535000
Indianapolis, IN 46253
(317) 297-2658

TRAINING CAMP:
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology; Terre Haute, IN

COACH:
Tony Dungy, 6th year with Colts (67-24), 12th year as NFL head coach (123-70)

PRESIDENT:
Bill Polian

VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Chris Polian

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION:
Steve Champlin

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Tom Telesco

DIRECTOR PRO PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Clyde Powers

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Mike Butler

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Tom Moore	Offensive coordinator	31	10
Jim Caldwell	*Quarterbacks	7	6
Howard Mudd	Offensive line	34	10
Gene Huey	Running backs	16	16
Clyde Christensen	Receivers	12	6
Ricky Thomas	Tight ends	11	6
Pete Metzelaars	Offensive quality control	4	4
Ron Meeks	Defensive coordinator	17	6
John Teerlinck	Defensive line	19	7
Mike Murphy	Linebackers	22	10
Alan Williams	Secondary	7	6
Rod Perry	Secondary	19	1
Carlos Woods	Defensive quality control	1	1
Russ Purnell	Special teams	22	6
Jon Torine	Strength & Conditioning	13	10
Richard Howell	Strength & Conditioning	8	8

*Assistant head coach

Colts Now Concentrate on Winning Again

Despite the fact that the Indianapolis Colts are the reigning Super Bowl champions, most of the national media have already penciled in the New England Patriots as the team to beat in the AFC heading into the 2007 season.

Still, Colts coach Tony Dungy and club president Bill Polian remain confident that Indianapolis has more than enough good players to make a strong push towards a second consecutive league championship.

"That's the good thing about the National Football League. We have put (2006) behind us and we're trying to get the best team out there that we can for (2007). I'm sure every one else is, including the Patriots," Dungy said. "That's where you are. Everybody wants to evaluate who had the best free agency period, who had the best draft.

"It really starts in August when you get out there in training camp and put your team out on the field. And you develop the team from there. So I think everybody's going to do that. I don't foresee any of the other 31 teams forfeiting."

Polian agrees. "Our focus is always on how we can make our team as good as it can be. If we do that, the rest will take care of itself," he said. "Coach (John) Wooden said that. And he's right. Worry about yourself and you'll do fine."

COACHING

One of the most experienced coaching staffs in the NFL returns pretty much intact for yet another season.

Former special assistant to the head coach/defensive assistant Leslie Frazier resigned right after the Super Bowl to accept the defensive coordinator's position with the Minnesota Vikings. And defensive line assistant Diron Reynolds left to become the new defensive line coach with the Miami Dolphins.

The foundation remains the same though. Offensive coordinator Tom Moore and defensive coordinator Ron Meeks are back, as are assistant head coach/quarterbacks coach Jim Caldwell, running backs coach Gene Huey, defensive line coach John Teerlinck, linebackers coach Mike Murphy, offensive line coach Howard Mudd, receivers coach Clyde Christensen, tight ends coach Ricky Thomas, secondary coach Alan Williams, special teams coach Russ Purnell, and offensive quality control coach Pete Metzelaars.

Former Carolina secondary coach Rod Perry was hired to fill Frazier's spot on the staff and will work with Williams tutoring the Colts' young defensive backs.

RATING: 9

QUARTERBACKS

Everything starts and ends with Peyton Manning when it comes to the Colts' quarterbacking duties. Manning, a two-time league MVP selection, continues to get better in all phases of his game.

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR Anthony Gonzalez

Indianapolis' first-round draft choice should fit in perfectly in the team's high-octane offense. He is expected to fill the slot receiver role for the Colts that was left vacant by the loss of Brandon Stokley.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
G Rick DeMulling, QB John Navarre, TE Mike Seidman

KEY LOSS:
DT Montae Reagor (5/5)*
In the grand scheme of things, the loss of a defensive tackle may not seem important. Reagor, though, was more than just a run-of-the-mill defensive lineman. He was like a coach on the field for Indianapolis.

OTHER LOSSES
CB Jason David (16/16), S Mike Doss (6/4), LB Gilbert Gardner (15/12), CB Nick Harper (15/15), LB Cato June (16/16), RB James Mungro (0/0), WR Ricky Proehl (2/1), S Dexter Reid (10/1), RB Dominic Rhodes (16/16), WR Brandon Stokley (4/1), DE Jonathan Welsh (0/0), WR/KR Terrence Wilkins (15/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
17; 10 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter
*Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

A year ago, he displayed more mobility than in recent seasons and showed that he can make things happen when flushed out of the pocket. He also proved to any doubters that he is perhaps the best game manager around, using all of his weapons to great effectiveness.

Jim Sorgi returns as Manning's primary backup. Josh Betts and John Navarre, a free-agent pickup from Arizona, are expected to battle it out for the team's No. 3 job.

RATING: 9.5

RUNNING BACKS

Another off-season and another Indianapolis running back has moved west. Last year, Edgerrin James grabbed the money and headed to Arizona. This time around, it was Dominic Rhodes who was hoping for more playing time in Oakland.

Second-year runner Joseph Addai will be the starter, but the big question is who will emerge to take over Rhodes' duties in the team's two-back attack. Addai led all rookies in rushing last year with 1,081 yards in 226 carries.

DeDe Dorsey, who went to training camp with Cincinnati last year as a rookie before being released and eventually picked up by the Colts, figures to get the first shot at the job.

Other candidates will probably be Luke Lawton, who spent time on the Colts' practice squad last year, along with former Saskatchewan Roughrider Kenton Keith, who was signed during the off-season, and undrafted rookie free agent Clifton Dawson.

RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

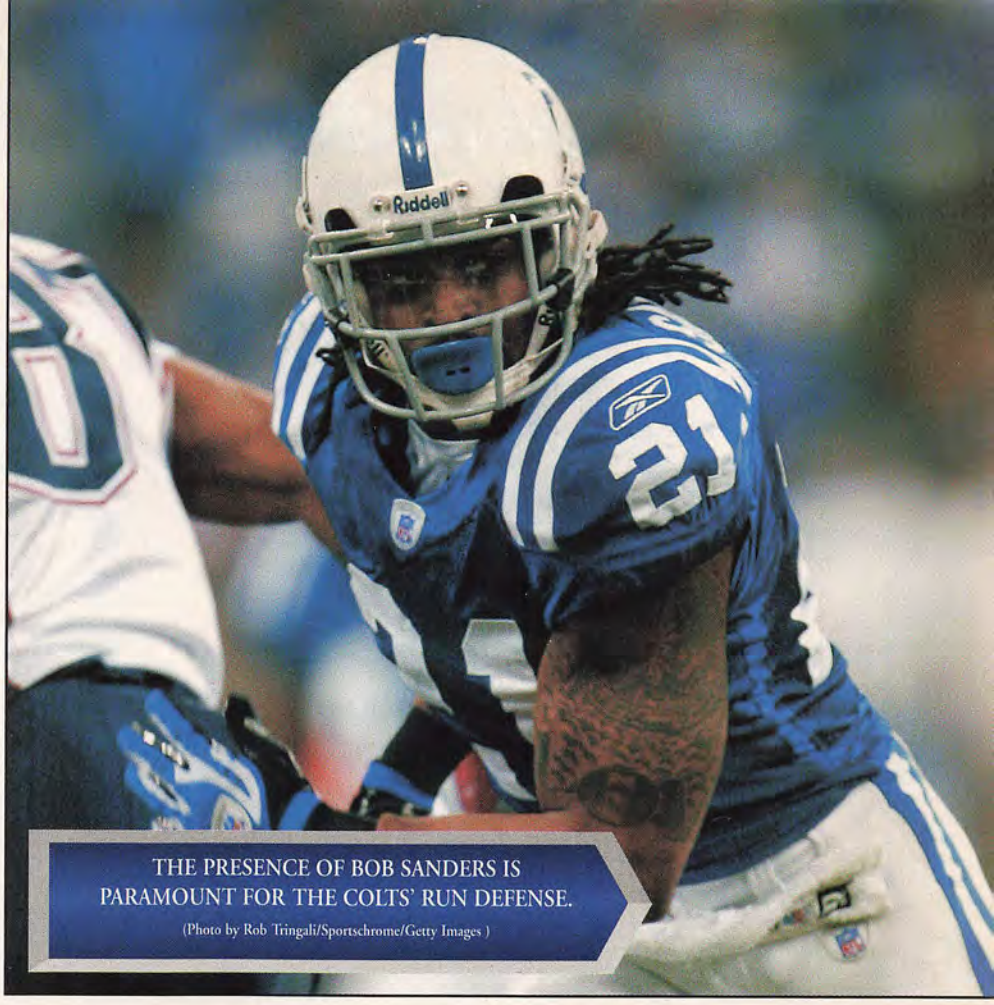
Both of the Colts' Pro Bowl receivers — Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne — are back, as is tight end/H-back Dallas Clark, which should once again give Manning plenty of targets to throw to.

Also back are wide receivers Aaron Moorehead and John Standeford, along with very capable tight ends Ben Utecht and Bryan Fletcher.

Top draft pick Anthony Gonzalez is expected to make a strong push to be the team's primary slot receiver. Another former Ohio State receiver, fifth-round draft pick Roy Hall, is an intriguing prospect with his combination of size and speed.

Indianapolis also picked up former Detroit Lions receiver Craphonso Thorpe on waivers in the off-season.

RATING: 9



THE PRESENCE OF BOB SANDERS IS PARAMOUNT FOR THE COLTS' RUN DEFENSE.

(Photo by Rob Tringali/Sportschrome/Getty Images)

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

The Indianapolis offensive line, which has performed in relative obscurity in recent years, has finally begun to get some much-deserved attention.

Center Jeff Saturday and offensive tackle Tarik Glenn, both Pro Bowl selections a year ago, anchor a group that includes offensive guards Ryan Lilja, Dylan Gandy and Jake Scott along with offensive tackle Ryan Diem.

Gandy split playing time with Lilja last season, while Diem was spelled by 2006 rookie offensive tackle Charlie Johnson with great effectiveness, especially during the post-season. Also back are offensive guard Matt Ulrich, along with offensive tackles Michael Toudouze, another 2006 draft pick, and former undrafted free agent Daniel Federkeil.

The Colts brought back former starting offensive guard Rick DeMulling from Detroit, where he has played the last two seasons. Second-round draft pick Tony Ugoh is expected to begin his NFL career at guard, but could also see action at tackle.

RATING: 9

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

This area took some big hits in the last year with the loss of Montae Reagor due to a season-ending automobile accident and the continuing mystery surrounding the future of Corey Simon.

The Colts tried to patch some holes with the addition of former Tampa Bay starter Anthony McFarland, who came on strong in the latter half of the season. Raheem Brock continues to play well at tackle despite giving up a lot of size.

Third-round draft pick Quinn Pitcock could be that big run stuffer that the team has needed since Simon went down to knee and illness problems. Darrell Reid and Dan Klecko will also rotate inside.

Defensive ends Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis give Indianapolis two strong pass rushers from the outside. Josh Thomas, Bo Schobel and Ryan LaCasse also return in backup roles. Seventh-round draft pick Keyunta Dawson will also get a look.

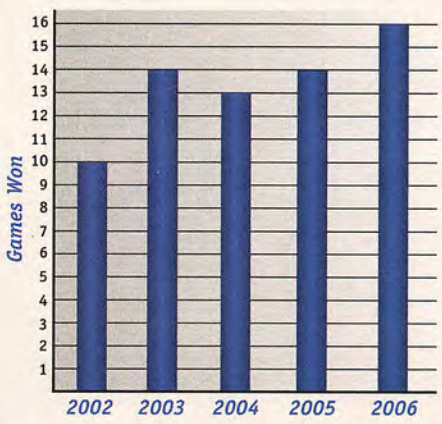
RATING: 8

LINEBACKERS

Gone is Cato June, a three-year starter on the weak side, who has signed a free-agent contract with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Strong-side linebacker is also a question mark heading into 2007, although former middle linebacker Rob Morris played well there late in the sea-

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005,2006*

Colts Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
44	**Clark, Dallas (TE)**	**6-3**	**252**	**5**	**Iowa**	**12/12**	**D1 03**	**D1 IND 03**	**Was probably the most productive receiver for Colts in the post-season.**
81	Fletcher, Bryan (TE)	6-5	230	3	UCLA	15/3	FA 05	D6 CHI 02	Came up with several clutch catches for the Colts down the stretch.
11	Gonzalez, Anthony	6-0	193	R	Ohio State	0/0	D1 07	D1 IND 07	Top draft pick who is expected to fight for job as the slot receiver.
83	Hall, Roy	6-3	240	R	Ohio State	0/0	D5 07	D5 IND 07	Big, athletic receiver who has intrigued coaches on how to use him.
88	**Harrison, Marvin**	**6-0**	**185**	**12**	**Syracuse**	**16/16**	**D1 96**	**D1 IND 96**	**Continues to be one of the most prolific receivers in the league.**
85	Moorehead, Aaron	6-3	200	5	Illinois	12/0	OFA 03	OFA IND 03	Big, tall receiver who has delivered despite limited playing time.
42	*Seidman, Mike (TE)	6-4	261	5	UCLA	3/3	UFA,CARO 07	D3 CARO 03	Former Carolina Panther adds depth to key position in offense.
84	Standeford, John	6-4	206	1	Purdue	0/0	FA 06	OFA WSH 04	Backup who has bounced from practice squad to active roster.
86	**Utecht, Ben (TE)**	**6-6**	**251**	**4**	**Minnesota**	**15/15**	**OFA 04**	**OFA IND 04**	**Has earned a starting role in the offense, but needs to be more consistent.**
87	**Wayne, Reggie**	**6-0**	**198**	**7**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 IND 01**	**Earned first-ever Pro Bowl appearance in 2006 with his steady play.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
64	DeMulling, Rick (G)	6-4	310	7	Idaho	14/7	UFA,DET 07	D7 IND 01	Former starter returns to Indianapolis after two years in Detroit.
71	**Diem, Ryan (T)**	**6-6**	**320**	**7**	**Northern Illinois**	**15/15**	**D4 01**	**D4 IND 01**	**Played well last season despite being bothered by nagging injuries.**
76	Federkeil, Dan (T)	6-6	290	1	Calgary	2/0	FA 06	OFA IND 06	Former Canadian college defensive end has made nice transition to offense.
57	Gandy, Dylan (G/C)	6-3	302	3	Texas Tech	16/11	D4 05	D4 IND 05	Shared starting role with Ryan Lilja for most of the 2006 season.
78	**Glenn, Tarik (T)**	**6-5**	**332**	**11**	**California**	**16/16**	**D1 97**	**D1 IND 97**	**Another Pro Bowl selection for this quiet, yet hard-nosed lineman.**
74	Johnson, Charlie (T)	6-4	305	2	Oklahoma State	16/1	D6 06	D6 IND 06	Rookie in 2006 who came up big for the Colts late in the season.
65	**Lilja, Ryan (G)**	**6-2**	**290**	**4**	**Kansas State**	**11/5**	**W,KC 04**	**OFA KC 04**	**Bothered by a sore knee last year, but returned to start late in season.**
63	**Saturday, Jeff (C)**	**6-2**	**295**	**9**	**North Carolina**	**16/16**	**FA 99**	**OFA BLT 98**	**Best center in league? He's certainly played like it for several seasons.**
73	**Scott, Jake (G)**	**6-5**	**295**	**4**	**Idaho**	**16/16**	**D5 04**	**D5 IND 04**	**Continues to play at a consistent level since moving into starting lineup.**
67	Ugoh, Tony (T)	6-5	301	R	Arkansas	0/0	D2 07	D2 IND 07	Colts gave up 2008 first-round draft pick to select this former Razorback.
69	Ulrich, Matt (G)	6-2	309	3	Northwestern	5/0	FA 06	OFA IND 05	Played in NFL Europa last spring in order to gain more game experience.
RUNNING BACKS									
29	**Addai, Joseph**	**5-11**	**214**	**2**	**Louisiana State**	**16/0**	**D1 06**	**D1 IND 06**	**Was the top rookie rusher with 1,081 yards despite sharing playing time.**
25	Dorsey, DeDe	5-11	196	2	Lindenwood	13/0	W,CIN 06	OFA CIN 06	Talented runner who lacks experience in the Colts' offensive system.
36	Keith, Kenton	5-11	198	R	New Mexico State	0/0	FA 07	FA IND 07	Former Canadian Football League standout signed in the off-season.
QUARTERBACKS									
9	Betts, Josh	6-2	217	1	Miami (Ohio)	0/0	FA 07	OFA IND 06	Smart, young prospect who spent rookie year on practice squad.
18	**Manning, Peyton**	**6-5**	**230**	**10**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**D1 98**	**D1 IND 98**	**Gets better every year. Does he have more to show us in 2007?**
16	Navarre, John	6-6	241	4	Michigan	0/0	FA 07	D7 ARIZ 04	Ex-Arizona Cardinals signal-caller who will fight for roster spot.
12	Sorgi, Jim	6-5	196	4	Wisconsin	1/0	D6 04	D6 IND 04	Has confidence of team despite limited regular-season playing experience.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
79	**Brock, Raheem (T)**	**6-4**	**274**	**6**	**Temple**	**16/16**	**FA 02**	**D7 PHA 02**	**Former defensive end who has made strong transition inside to tackle.**
61	Dawson, Keyunta (E)	6-3	254	R	Texas Tech	0/0	D7 07	D7 IND 07	Smallish defensive lineman who could earn spot on regular-season roster.
93	**Freeney, Dwight (E)**	**6-1**	**268**	**6**	**Syracuse**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 IND 02**	**Numbers may have been down last year, but remains pass rushing threat.**
90	Klecko, Dan (T)	5-11	275	5	Temple	10/0	W,NE 06	D4 NE 03	Two-way player who caught a pair of touchdown passes as fullback.
99	LaCasse, Ryan (E)	6-2	257	2	Syracuse	12/0	T,BLT 06	D7 BLT 06	Spent time on practice squad after being traded from Baltimore last season.
98	**Mathis, Robert (E)**	**6-2**	**245**	**5**	**Alabama A&M**	**16/16**	**D5 03**	**D5 IND 03**	**Earned full-time job last year and responded with a team high 9.5 sacks.**
92	**McFarland, Anthony (NT)**	**6-0**	**300**	**9**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**T,TB 06**	**D1 TB 99**	**Experienced lineman who made big contributions after arriving from Tampa.**
72	Pitcock, Quinn (T)	6-2	299	R	Ohio State	0/0	D3 07	D3 IND 07	Hard-nosed rookie who is expected to help shut down opponent's run game.
95	Reid, Darrell (E)	6-2	288	3	Minnesota	15/0	OFA 05	OFA IND 05	Former college defensive end who can move inside when needed.
96	Schobel, Bo (E)	6-5	264	4	Texas Christian	14/0	FA 07	D4 TENN 04	Became part of the Colts line rotation after joining team last fall.
97	*Simon, Corey (T)	6-2	300	7	Florida State	0/0	UFA,PHA 05	D1 PHA 00	Knee injury and illness sidelined this former Pro Bowler last year. Future uncertain.
91	Thomas, Josh (E)	6-5	271	4	Syracuse	14/0	OFA 04	OFA IND 04	Could have highly productive year if he can come back from sore knee.
LINEBACKERS									
50	Boiman, Rocky (O)	6-4	236	6	Notre Dame	16/1	FA 06	D4 TENN 02	Re-signed with the Colts with the hopes of earning starting job.
58	**Brackett, Gary (M)**	**5-11**	**235**	**5**	**Rutgers**	**14/14**	**OFA 03**	**OFA IND 03**	**Emotional leader of defense who plays much bigger than stature suggests.**
56	Hagler, Tyjuan (O)	6-0	236	3	Cincinnati	9/0	D5 05	D5 IND 05	Returned from injury-marred rookie season to be productive special teamer.
54	**Keiaho, Freddy (O)**	**5-11**	**226**	**2**	**San Diego State**	**14/0**	**D3 06**	**D3 IND 06**	**Has been penciled in to take over at weak-side linebacker for Cato June.**
94	**Morris, Rob (O)**	**6-2**	**243**	**8**	**Brigham Young**	**15/5**	**D1 00**	**D1 IND 00**	**Made successful move from middle linebacker to strong-side linebacker.**
53	O'Neil, Keith (O)	6-0	240	5	Northern Arizona	10/0	W,DALL 06	OFA DALL 03	Tough-minded backup linebacker who has become key special teams performer.
55	Session, Clint (O)	6-0	235	R	Pittsburgh	0/0	D4 07	D4 IND 07	Will get long look at outside linebacker and will play on special teams.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
41	**Bethea, Antoine (S)**	**5-11**	**203**	**2**	**Howard**	**14/14**	**D6 06**	**D6 IND 06**	**Diamond in the rough who started as rookie and never looked back.**
32	Coe, Michael (CB)	6-0	190	R	Alabama State	0/0	D5 07	D5 IND 07	Talented rookie who is expected to find work on roster early on.
42	Condren, Brannon (S)	6-1	205	R	Troy	0/0	D4 07	D4 IND 07	Expected to see playing time on special teams or as the fourth safety.
43	Giordano, Matt (S)	5-11	200	3	California	12/1	D4 05	D4 IND 05	Came up big last season as he filled in for injured Bob Sanders.
26	**Hayden, Kelvin (CB)**	**6-0**	**195**	**3**	**Illinois**	**15/1**	**D2 05**	**D2 IND 05**	**Former college wide receiver who appears ready to move into lineup.**
20	Hughes, Daymeion (CB)	5-10	190	R	California	0/0	D3 07	D3 IND 07	Impressive looking first-year player who may work his way into rotation.
28	**Jackson, Marlin (CB)**	**6-0**	**196**	**3**	**Michigan**	**14/8**	**D1 05**	**D1 IND 05**	**Has bounced around from cornerback to safety since being drafted in 2005.**
27	Jennings, Tim (CB)	5-8	185	2	Georgia	11/0	D2 06	D2 IND 06	Missed early workouts a year ago due to ankle surgery; time to step up.
40	LeJeune, Norman (S)	6-0	210	2	Louisiana State	2/0	W,MIA 07	D7 PHA 03	Will try to get noticed on special teams; a real long shot.
34	Rushing, T.J. (CB/KR)	5-9	186	2	Stanford	6/0	FA 06	D7 IND 06	Primarily drafted to return kicks and punt, can also play defensively.
21	**Sanders, Bob (S)**	**5-8**	**206**	**4**	**Iowa**	**4/4**	**D2 04**	**D2 IND 04**	**Heart and soul of defense who gives 110 percent when he is on the field.**
SPECIALISTS									
6	Hodges, Reggie (P)	6-0	226	2	Ball State	0/0	FA 07	D6 STL 05	Just in camp to give Smith a breather.
17	Smith, Hunter (P)	6-2	209	9	Notre Dame	16/0	D7 99	D7 IND 99	Valauble as a punter, also the holder for the league's best clutch kicker.
48	Snow, Justin (LS/TE)	6-3	240	8	Baylor	16/0	OFA 00	OFA IND 00	Veteran long snapper who can also be plugged in at tight end if needed.
4	Vinatieri, Adam (K)	6-0	202	12	South Dakota State	13/0	UFA,NE 06	OFA NE 96	Best kicker in the game? Who else do you want with game on line?

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Devin Aromashodu (1, Auburn), Michael DePriest (Texas Christian), Brian Hare (1, Purdue), Kevin McMahan (1, Maine), Taylor Sele (Wv./WSH; Boston College), Trent Shelton (Baylor), Craphonso Thorpe (1, Florida State); TEs Matt Farbotko (Harvard), Jonny Harline (Brigham Young), Gijon Robinson (Missouri Western); OTs Joe Lobdell (Northern Iowa), Michael Toudouze (1, Texas Christian); OGs Albert Bimper (1, Colorado State), Sam Wilder (1, Colorado); RB Clifton Dawson (Harvard); FB Luke Lawton (1, McNeese State); QB Mike McGann (1, Temple); DE Jeff Charleston (1, Idaho State), DTs Quintin Echols (Kansas State), Ed Johnson (Penn State), Tom Johnson (1, Southern Mississippi), Ramel Meekins (Rutgers); LBs Brandon Archer (Kansas State), Ramon Guzman (Buffalo), KaMichael Hall (Georgia Tech), Victor Worsley (North Carolina); CB Tanard Davis (1, Miami); S Scott Ware (1, Southern Cal); DBs Melvin Bullitt (Texas A&M), Antonio Smith (Ohio State); PK Shane Andrus (1, Murray State)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Dual attack. Indianapolis is expected to keep its two-man running attack intact this season. Tony Dungy liked the production that Joseph Addai and Dominic Rhodes provided in the team's post-season run to the Super Bowl. The question now is who will team with the Addai.

*Freddy to the rescue. Second-year outside linebacker Freddy Keiaho will get the first shot of replacing former Pro Bowl linebacker Cato June in the defensive lineup. Keiaho saw limited playing time as a rookie due to a knee injury, but showed enough promise to warrant a longer look.

*Cover men. The Colts lost both of their starting cornerbacks in the off-season as Nick Harper signed with Tennessee and Jason David moved on to New Orleans. It will be up to Marlin Jackson, Kelvin Hayden and Tim Jennings to prove they belong.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Dwight Freeney

First of all, it should be noted that Dwight Freeney isn't going anywhere.

While the Colts' Pro Bowl defensive end was designated as the team's franchise player during the off-season, he is expected to sign a long-term deal that will keep him in an Indianapolis uniform for the remainder of his career.

That being said, Freeney is looking for a big year in 2007. After leading the team in sacks his first four seasons in the league (and posting a franchise-best 56.5 career sacks), he recorded just 5.5 last year. He had been averaging nearly 13 sacks a year.

Much of the dropoff can be attributed to facing double- and sometimes triple-team blocking schemes. He was also bothered by a sore shoulder for much of the season, which limited his practice time during the week.

Still, he was one of the league leaders with 33 quarterback pressures and remains as one of the NFL's premier pass rushers.

Freeney wasn't fazed by his lack of big numbers a year ago. And for good reason. He remains as the team's primary point man on the defensive side of the ball, the one player that opposing offenses must account for on every play.

son. Gary Brackett is the only sure thing as the returning starter at middle linebacker. Freddy Keiaho, a 2006 draft pick, is expected to get the first opportunity to replace June. Gilbert Gardner, who started 12 games on the strong side a year ago, was released. Also available are Rocky Boiman, Tyjuan Hagler and Keith O'Neill.

Fourth-round draft pick Clint Session may also be in the mix either on the strong side or at weak-side linebacker.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

Gone are starting cornerbacks Nick Harper and Jason David. Mike Doss, who had been a constant in the Indianapolis secondary at safety for the past four years, has also left.

A good core group of young defensive backs are back, led by strong safety Bob Sanders and 2006 sixth-round pick Antoine Bethea.

Marlin Jackson and Kelvin Hayden, the team's top two draft picks in 2005, will get an opportunity to start at cornerback. Second-round draft pick Tim Jennings (2006) missed playing time early a year ago due to ankle surgery but will get every chance to prove himself. Also back are hard-hitting safety Matt Giordano and cornerback T.J.Rushing.

Rookies Daymeion Hughes, Michael Coe and Brannon Condren will most likely make contributions on special teams first. Hughes, though, may end up pushing for playing time with the defense early on.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Adam Vinatieri and Hunter Smith are back as the team's placekicker and punter. Justin Snow also returns as the long snapper. But the big question concerns who will be handling punt and kickoff returns.

T.J. Rushing was drafted in 2006 to be the primary kick returner, but was edged out by Terrence Wilkins' strong return to the NFL after a year out of the league. Wilkins hadn't been re-signed by early May.

Rushing could very well take over those duties this year, although top draft pick Anthony Gonzalez can also return punts and kickoffs. He may get a look there, along with Hughes.

The Colts, however, must get better at kick and punt coverage. That was a major area of concern last year.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

Will the Colts have the dreaded post-Super Bowl doldrums? Can Indianapolis get back to playing the kind of defense that helped the team get off to a 14-0 start in 2005? Those questions will be answered early on, although don't expect much of a dropoff in performance in 2007.

RATING: Even

— Tom James

2005 RESULTS

Record: 16-4

Sep. 10	at N.Y. Giants	26-21
Sep. 17	HOUSTON	43-24
Sep. 24	JACKSONVILLE	21-14
Oct. 1	at N.Y. Jets	31-28
Oct. 8	TENNESSEE	14-13
Oct. 15	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 22	WASHINGTON	36-22
Oct. 29	at Denver	34-31
Nov. 5	at New England	27-20
Nov. 12	BUFFALO	17-16
Nov. 19	at Dallas	14-21
Nov. 26	PHILADELPHIA	45-21
Dec. 3	at Tennessee	17-20
Dec. 10	at Jacksonville	17-44
Dec. 18	CINCINNATI	34-16
Dec. 24	at Houston	24-27
Dec. 31	MIAMI	27-22
Jan. 6	KANSAS CITY	23- 8
Jan. 13	at Baltimore	15- 6
Jan. 21	NEW ENGLAND	38-34
Feb. 4	Chicago, at Miami	29-17

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	at Dallas (Thu.)	7:00
Aug. 20	CHICAGO (Mon.)	7:00
Aug. 25	DETROIT (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 31	at Cincinnati (Fri.)	7:30
Sep. 6	NEW ORLEANS (Thu.)	8:30
Sep. 16	at Tennessee	12:00
Sep. 23	at Houston	12:00
Sep. 30	DENVER	4:15
Oct. 7	TAMPA BAY	4:05
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 22	at Jacksonville (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 28	at Carolina	1:00
Nov. 4	NEW ENGLAND	4:15
Nov. 11	at San Diego	5:15
Nov. 18	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Nov. 22	at Atlanta (Thu.)	8:15
Dec. 2	JACKSONVILLE	1:00
Dec. 9	at Baltimore	8:15
Dec. 16	at Oakland	1:05
Dec. 23	HOUSTON	1:00
Dec. 30	TENNESSEE	1:00

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

2006 RECORD: 8-8 | STADIUM: Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, 67,164, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

AFC SOUTH | www.jaguars.com

AT A GLANCE

One Stadium Place
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 633-6000

TRAINING CAMP:
Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, Jacksonville, FL

COACH:
Jack Del Rio, 5th year with Jaguars and as NFL head coach (34-31)

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Paul Vance

VICE PRESIDENT/PLAYER PERSONNEL:
James Harris

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Gene Smith

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Charles Bailey

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Mike Tice	Asst. head coach/offense/TE	12	2
Dirk Koetter	Offensive coordinator	1	1
Mike Shula	Quarterbacks	11	1
Todd Monken	Receivers	1	1
Robert Prince	Assistant receivers	4	4
Andy Heck	Offensive line	4	4
Kennedy Pola	Running backs	4	3
Mike Smith	Defensive coordinator	9	5
Ray Hamilton	Defensive line	21	5
Ted Monachino	Assistant defensive line	2	2
Mark Duffner	Linebackers	11	2
Dave Campo	*Secondary	19	3
Alvin Reynolds	Secondary	15	5
Joe DeCamillas	Special teams	21	1
Tom Williams	Special teams assistant	1	1
Mike Asanovich	Strength & Conditioning	13	5
Les Ebert	Strength & Conditioning	7	4

*Assistant head coach

This Could be Make or Break Year for Del Rio

The Jaguars find themselves facing a crossroads season this year.

After appearing to be a team on the rise when they went 12-4 in 2005, they took a step backwards in 2006 to 8-8 and missed the playoffs.

Now, coach Jack Del Rio, entering his fifth season with a contract that expires after the 2008 season, faces a critical season. If he takes the team to the playoffs, he'll probably get a contract extension.

If he doesn't, owner Wayne Weaver could decide to start over next year with a new coach because the team hasn't won a playoff game since 1999.

COACHING

Del Rio, noted as a coach who is popular with his players, got the Jaguars' head coaching job at age 39 in 2003 after just six years as an assistant coach and has spent his first four years learning on the job while honing his leadership skills.

Del Rio alienated both of his quarterbacks — Byron Leftwich and David Garrard — last year when he pulled both of them and has had trouble finding a coaching staff he likes. He hired his third offensive coordinator (Dirk Koetter) and his third special teams coach (Joe DeCamillis) this year and has only four coaches left from his first staff.

Del Rio doesn't have a playoff victory on his resume and needs a big season to prove he's grown into the job.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

Byron Leftwich is trying to rebound from a star-crossed season.

Del Rio yanked Leftwich after the sixth game when he was suffering from an ankle injury. Leftwich felt he could still play, but Del Rio decided to go with David Garrard. That didn't work when Garrard went 5-5 in the last 10 games and was benched in the second half of the season finale in Kansas City.

So Del Rio decided to name Leftwich, who's entering the final year of his contract, as the starter. But Leftwich doesn't seem committed to staying in Jacksonville. He skipped the off-season workout program until the OTAs started in May. And Del Rio wanted to draft Brady Quinn, but was overruled by personnel chief James Harris.

If Leftwich is to prove he has value in the free-agent market next year, he has to stay healthy and show he can lead the team to the playoffs.

RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

The key to the Jaguars' offense is their running game. They have one of the best running back tandems in the league in veteran Fred Taylor and young Maurice Jones-Drew. They ranked third in the league last year in rushing yardage as Taylor ran for 1,146 yards and Drew added 941.

The only concern is that Taylor is 31 and had a hamstring problem late in the year that limited

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR/PR Dennis Northcutt

Although Northcutt was a disappointment in Cleveland, he'll bring speed to the Jaguars' receiving corps that they didn't have last year after Jimmy Smith retired. If Northcutt can stretch the field, he can make their offense more dangerous.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
S Kevin McCadam, T Tony Pashos, TE Jermaine Wiggins

KEY LOSS:
TE Kyle Brady (16/14)*
Brady wasn't a factor in the passing game as he caught just five passes. But he was one of the best blocking tight ends in the league and he also was a team leader who'll be missed.

OTHER LOSSES
S Deon Grant (16/16), WR Cortez Hankton (12/1), P Chris Hanson (16/0), TE Brian Jones (0/0), DT Elton Patterson (0/0), DE Marcellus Wiley (12/0), DT Tony Williams (0/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 10 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

him to nine carries in the last three games.

If Taylor stays healthy for all 16 games and Drew, who's 5-7 and got a lot of his yards on draw plays on passing downs, shows he can run effectively inside, the Jaguars should again be one of the best running teams in the league.

The Jaguars hope Greg Jones will be healthy enough to be the fullback.

RATING: 9

RECEIVERS

The Jaguars' receiving corps remains a major question mark. Reggie Williams and Matt Jones have yet to live up to their billing after being drafted in the first round in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Neither player stepped up after Jimmy Smith retired as Williams caught only 52 passes and Jones 41.

The Jaguars hope that one or both of them will have a breakout season this year because the passing game ranked 24th in yardage last year.

They hope the passing game will get a boost from the addition of Dennis Northcutt, who was signed as a free agent from Cleveland, and third-round pick Mike Walker. They'll add speed to the receiving corps.

The Jaguars drafted Marcedes Lewis in the first round a year ago to become their tight end of the future. But he struggled in his first season and caught just 13 passes. If he doesn't reach his potential, George Wrighster, who caught 39 passes last year, but underwent surgery for a torn labrum in the off-season, and free-agent addition Jermaine Wiggins will play major roles.

RATING: 6.5

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Jaguars are solid in the middle with Brad Meester at center and Chris Naeole and Vince Manuwai at guards. But even though they opened the holes for the league's third best running game and allowed just 30 sacks, 12th fewest in the NFL last year, the Jaguars weren't pleased with the play of their tackles.

They signed Tony Pashos as a free agent from Baltimore to replace Mo Williams, who will compete at left tackle with Khalif Barnes if he's not traded. Barnes suffered a sophomore slump last year.

Pashos is being counted on to improve the Jags pass blocking, which should help Byron Leftwich stay healthy.

This is a dependable, veteran group and none of the five starters missed a game with an injury last year, although Barnes was suspended for a game after his DUI arrest.

RATING: 8

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This group, anchored by defensive tackles Marcus Stroud and John Henderson, is the heart of the defense.

Stroud had his Pro Bowl string of three in a row snapped last year because he missed five games with an ankle injury, while Henderson made it the second time as an alternate. If Stroud stays healthy, this should be the best tackle tandem in the league. They have a dependable backup in Rob Meier, who can also play end.

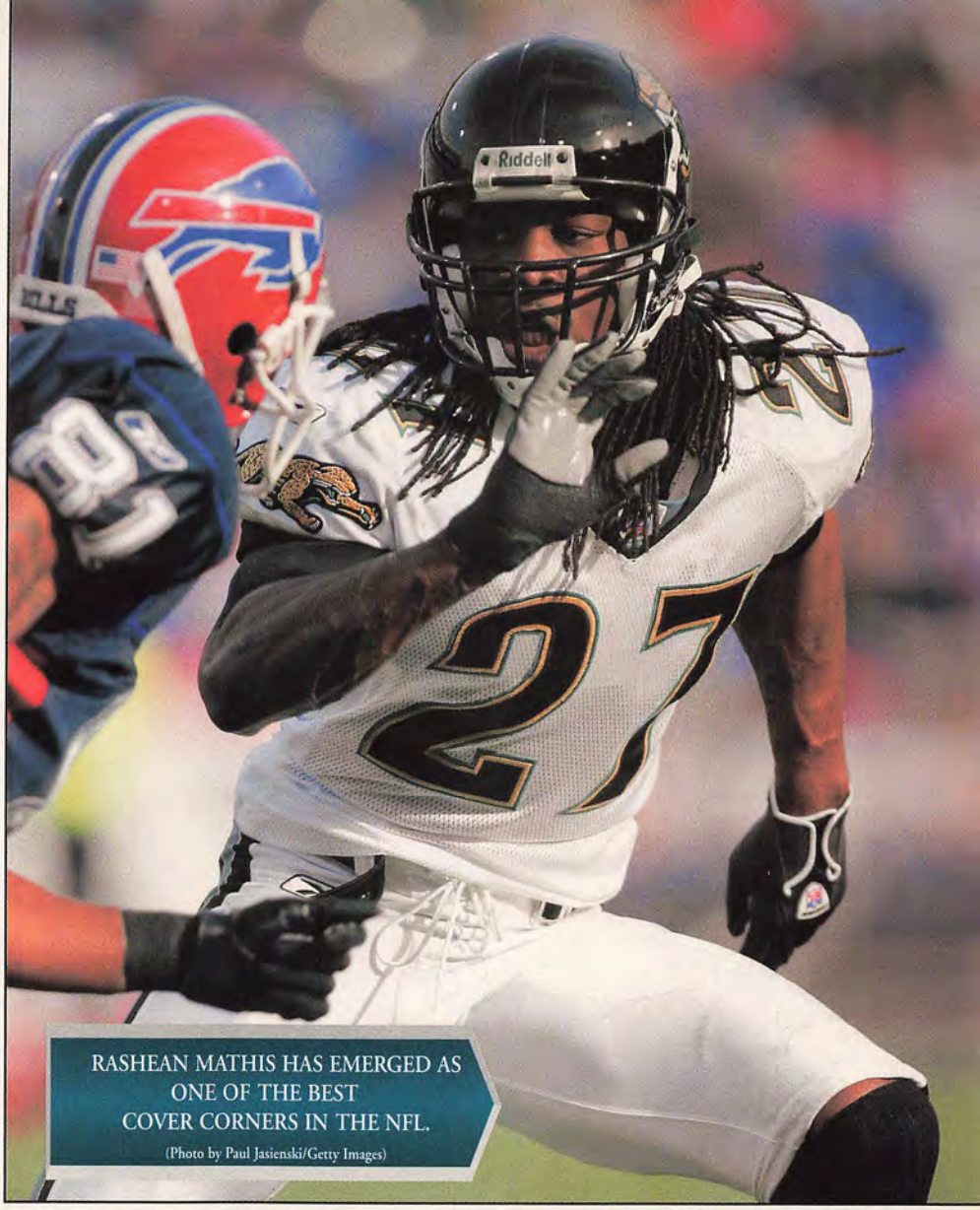
But there are question marks about the end position because Reggie Hayward is coming back from a torn Achilles tendon. Bobby McCray replaced Hayward and got 10 sacks, but the restricted free agent wants a big new contract and is skipping the off-season program. Veteran Paul Spicer, 32, noted more for playing the run than the pass, returns at the other end spot.

The Jaguars have a pair of young pass rushers with potential in Brent Hawkins, a fifth round pick last year who wound up on injured reserve with a groin injury, and Brian Smith, a fourth-round pick this year who they think was a steal because he was downgraded after breaking his hip last season.

RATING: 8

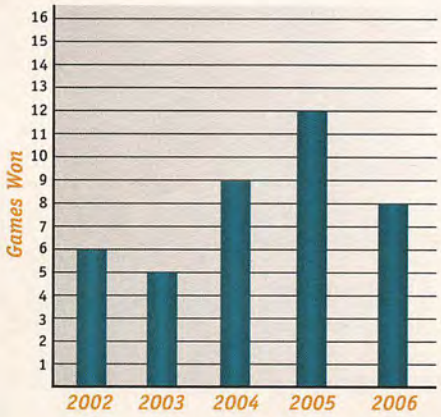
LINEBACKERS

The linebacking corps should be improved by the return of middle linebacker Mike Peterson, who led the team in tackles for three years before suffer-



RASHEAN MATHIS HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE BEST COVER CORNERS IN THE NFL.
(Photo by Paul Jasienski/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2005*

Jaguars Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
15	Broussard, John	6-1	172	R	San Jose State	0/0	D7 07	D7 JAX 07	Seventh-round pick can add speed to the slow receiving corps.
84	Farris, Jimmy	6-0	200	4	Montana	0/0	FA 07	OFA SF 01	Has been around the block a few times, and now tries here.
18	**Jones, Matt**	**6-6**	**238**	**3**	**Arkansas**	**14/4**	**D1 05**	**D1 JAX 05**	**Struggled first two years while making the transition from quarterback to receiver.**
89	Lewis, Marcedes (TE)	6-6	265	2	UCLA	15/3	D1 06	D1 JAX 06	Failed to live up to his first-round billing with 13 catches as a rookie.
86	Northcutt, Dennis	5-11	171	8	Arizona	13/6	UFA,CLV 07	D2 CLV 00	Veteran free agent will bring speed to the slot receiver position.
17	Sharon, Charles	6-0	184	2	Bowling Green	0/0	FA 06	OFA JAX 06	Didn't appear in a game as a rookie and is a long shot to make it.
81	Walker, Mike	6-2	209	R	Central Florida	0/0	D3 07	D3 JAX 07	Third-round pick is likely the fastest receiver.
85	Wiggins, Jermaine (TE)	6-2	260	8	Georgia	16/3	FA 07	OFA NYJ 99	Veteran slated to replace departed Kyle Brady.
19	Wilford, Ernest	6-4	218	4	Virginia Tech	16/12	D4 04	D4 JAX 04	Started 12 games last year, but lacks speed.
11	**Williams, Reggie**	**6-4**	**214**	**4**	**Washington**	**16/14**	**D1 04**	**D1 JAX 04**	**Fourth year is a make or break season for 2004 first-round pick.**
87	**Wrighster, George (TE)**	**6-3**	**257**	**5**	**Oregon**	**16/10**	**D4 03**	**D4 JAX 03**	**Underwent torn labrum surgery after catching 39 passes.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
69	**Barnes, Khalif, (T)**	**6-5**	**325**	**3**	**Washington**	**15/15**	**D2 05**	**D2 JAX 05**	**Needs to rebound after suffering a sophomore slump.**
75	Carnahan, Andrew (T)	6-7	307	R	Arizona State	0/0	D7 07	D7 JAX 07	Seventh-round pick a candidate to develop on practice squad.
76	Collier, Richard (T)	6-7	358	2	Valdosta State	5/0	OFA 06	OFA JAX 06	Raw prospect may develop into solid player.
61	*Connolly, Dan (G)	6-4	318	3	Southeast Missouri State	0/0	OFA 05	OFA JAX 05	Spent last season on injured reserve with dislocated finger.
67	**Manuwai, Vincent (G)**	**6-2**	**325**	**5**	**Hawaii**	**16/16**	**D3 03**	**D3 JAX 03**	**Developed into solid left guard in his fourth season.**
73	McDougle, Stockar (T)	6-6	348	8	Oklahoma	11/0	UFA,MIA 06	D1 DET 00	Veteran played 11 games, mainly on special teams, last year.
63	**Meester, Brad (C)**	**6-3**	**300**	**8**	**Northern Iowa**	**16/16**	**D2 00**	**D2 JAX 00**	**Rebounded from 2005 biceps tendon tear to start 16 games last year.**
65	**Naeole, Chris (G)**	**6-3**	**330**	**11**	**Colorado**	**16/16**	**UFA,NO 02**	**D1 NO 97**	**Underrated veteran is a dependable left guard.**
62	Norman, Dennis (C)	6-5	323	7	Princeton	16/1	FA 04	D7 SEA 01	Princeton grad is valuable backup.
77	Nwaneri, Uche (G)	6-3	325	R	Purdue	0/0	D5 07	D5 JAX 07	Fifth-round pick has good size and potential.
79	**Pashos, Tony (T)**	**6-6**	**320**	**5**	**Illinois**	**16/16**	**UFA,BLT 07**	**D5 BLT 03**	**Free agent signed to replace Mo Williams at right tackle.**
74	Williams, Maurice (T)	6-5	315	7	Michigan	16/16	D4 01	D4 JAX 01	Lost his starting job to Pashos and will fight for roster spot.
RUNNING BACKS									
32	Jones-Drew, Maurice (KR)	5-7	212	2	UCLA	16/1	D2 06	D2 JAX 06	Wants to build on sensational rookie season.
33	**Jones, Greg (FB)**	**6-1**	**255**	**4**	**Florida State**	**0/0**	**D2 04**	**D2 JAX 04**	**Dependable fullback spent last year on injured reserve with torn ACL.**
24	Owens, Montell	5-10	219	2	Maine	14/0	OFA 06	OFA JAX 06	Played 14 games on special teams last year.
34	Pearman, Alvin (KR)	5-10	206	3	Virginia	13/0	D4 05	D4 JAX 05	Backup running back and special teams player.
28	**Taylor, Fred**	**6-1**	**226**	**10**	**Florida**	**15/15**	**D1 98**	**D1 JAX 98**	**Wants to show he hasn't lost a step at age 31.**
22	Toefield, LaBrandon	5-11	232	5	Louisiana State	4/0	D4 03	D4 JAX 03	Backup running back who played in just four games last year.
36	Wimbush, Derrick (KR)	6-1	233	3	Fort Valley State	12/6	OFA 05	OFA JAX 05	Carried just once last year, but can play fullback and special teams.
QUARTERBACKS									
9	Garrard, David	6-1	240	6	East Carolina	11/10	D4 02	D4 JAX 02	Backup who flunked a chance to win starting job last year.
5	Gray, Quinn	6-3	246	4	Florida A&M	2/0	FA 03	OFA JAX 02	A third-stringer who has thrown just 36 passes in his career.
7	***Leftwich, Byron**	**6-5**	**242**	**5**	**Marshall**	**6/6**	**D1 03**	**D1 JAX 03**	**Needs to stay healthy in the final year of his contract.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
57	*Hawkins, Brent (E)	6-2	245	2	Illinois State	6/0	D5 06	D5 JAX 06	Showed promise as rookie pass rusher before going on injured reserve.
97	*Hayward, Reggie (E)	6-5	285	7	Iowa State	1/1	UFA,DEN 05	D3 DEN 01	Trying to rebound from a torn Achilles tendon.
98	**Henderson, John (T)**	**6-7**	**325**	**6**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 JAX 02**	**A two-time Pro Bowler who anchors the defensive line.**
66	Landri, Derek (T)	6-2	288	R	Notre Dame	0/0	D5 07	D5 JAX 07	Fifth round pick is practice-squad candidate.
93	**McCray, Bobby (E)**	**6-6**	**261**	**4**	**Florida**	**15/12**	**D7 04**	**D7 JAX 04**	**Wants new contract after getting 10 sacks.**
96	McDaniel, Tony (T)	6-7	295	2	Tennessee	11/0	OFA 06	OFA JAX 06	Showed promise as part-time player as undrafted rookie.
92	Meier, Rob (T)	6-5	298	8	Washington State	16/8	D7 00	D7 JAX 00	Valuable handyman who can play both tackle and end.
94	Mincey, Jeremy (E)	6-3	260	1	Florida	0/0	FA 06	D6 NE 06	Signed off of 49ers practice squad in December.
49	Smith, Brian (E)	6-3	230	R	Missouri	0/0	D4 07	D4 JAX 07	Fourth-round pick lasted because of hip injury, but has pass-rushing skills.
95	**Spicer, Paul (E)**	**6-4**	**296**	**8**	**Saginaw Valley State**	**16/16**	**FA 00**	**OFA SEA 98**	**Veteran end who's better against the run than the pass.**
99	**Stroud, Marcus (T)**	**6-6**	**306**	**7**	**Georgia**	**11/11**	**D1 01**	**D1 JAX 01**	**Trying to rebound from ankle injury that cost him five games.**
90	Wyche, James (E)	6-5	271	2	Syracuse	0/0	FA 06	D7 JAX 06	Spent majority of his rookie season on practice squad.
LINEBACKERS									
58	Cordova, Jorge (O)	6-1	241	4	Nevada	13/0	D3 04	D3 JAX 04	After two years on injured reserve, played in 13 games as a backup last year.
56	Durant, Justin	6-1	230	R	Hampton	0/0	D2 07	D2 JAX 07	Second-round pick could make impact as rookie.
50	Gilbert, Tony (M)	6-0	239	5	Georgia	16/0	FA 03	D6 ARIZ 03	Led team last year with 16 special teams tackles.
55	Greisen, Nick (O)	6-1	245	6	Wisconsin	16/10	UFA,NYG 06	D5 NYG 02	Veteran started 10 games last year, but he's on bubble.
51	**Ingram, Clint (O)**	**6-2**	**245**	**2**	**Oklahoma**	**14/11**	**D3 06**	**D3 JAX 06**	**Started 11 games as rookie and flashed good potential.**
59	Iwuh, Brian (O)	6-0	235	2	Colorado	12/0	FA 06	OFA JAX 06	Undrafted rookie played in 12 games last year.
45	Nkang, Chad	5-11	220	R	Elon	0/0	D7 07	D7 JAX 07	Seventh-round pick is candidate for practice squad.
54	***Peterson, Mike (M)**	**6-1**	**235**	**9**	**Florida**	**5/5**	**UFA,IND 03**	**D2 IND 99**	**Went on injured reserve last year with torn pectoral muscle.**
91	Pettway, Kenneth (O)	6-4	238	3	Grambling	7/0	FA 06	D7 HOUS 05	Played in seven games after being signed in October.
52	**Smith, Daryl (O)**	**6-2**	**244**	**4**	**Georgia Tech**	**16/16**	**D2 04**	**D2 JAX 04**	**Led team in tackles at middle linebacker when Peterson was injured.**
53	*Thomas, Pat	6-2	246	3	North Carolina State	2/0	D6 05	D6 JAX 05	Spent second season on injured reserve with hamstring injury.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
21	Cousin, Terry (CB)	5-9	185	11	South Carolina	10/4	FA 05	OFA CHI 97	Nickel back who played in 10 games last year.
20	***Darius, Donovin (S)**	**6-1**	**225**	**10**	**Syracuse**	**10/10**	**D1 98**	**D1 JAX 98**	**Returning from broken leg, is leader of the secondary.**
42	Fudge, Jamaal (S)	5-9	196	2	Clemson	6/0	FA 06	OFA JAX 06	Played in six games as an undrafted rookie.
40	Gattis, Josh (S)	6-1	206	R	Wake Forest	0/0	D5 07	D5 JAX 07	Fifth-round pick can add depth at safety.
27	**Mathis, Rashean (CB)**	**6-1**	**195**	**5**	**Bethune-Cookman**	**16/16**	**D2 03**	**D2 JAX 03**	**Became a first time Pro Bowler last year.**
26	McCadam, Kevin (S)	6-1	215	6	Virginia Tech	16/0	FA 07	D5 ATL 02	Veteran free agent will fight for roster spot.
25	**Nelson, Reggie (S)**	**5-11**	**198**	**R**	**Florida**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 JAX 07**	**First-round pick will start at free safety.**
38	*Roberson, Chris (CB)	5-11	185	3	Eastern Michigan	0/0	FA 05	D7 JAX 05	Spent season on injured reserve with broken bone in shoulder.
43	Sensabaugh, Gerald (S)	6-0	218	3	North Carolina	16/7	D5 05	D5 JAX 05	Started seven games when Darius went on injured reserve.
41	*Sorensen, Nick (S)	6-3	210	7	Virginia Tech	12/0	FA 01	OFA MIA 01	Special teams ace ended year on injured reserve.
31	Starks, Scott (CB)	5-9	176	3	Wisconsin	16/1	D3 05	D3 JAX 05	Backup corner played in 16 games, started one.
37	Thornton, Bruce (CB)	5-10	195	3	Georgia	0/0	FA 07	D4 DALL 04	Hopes to contend for a backup job in secondary.
23	Webb, Dee (CB)	5-11	186	2	Florida	11/1	D7 06	D7 JAX 06	Played in 11 games, started one, as undrafted rookie.
29	**Williams, Brian (CB)**	**5-11**	**198**	**6**	**North Carolina State**	**15/15**	**UFA,MINN 06**	**D4 MINN 02**	**Teamed with Mathis to form solid cornerback duo.**
SPECIALISTS									
3	Podlesh, Adam (P)	5-11	202	R	Maryland	9/9	D4 07	D4 JAX 07	Rookie replacing Chris Hanson as punter; pressure will be on.
10	Scobee, Josh (K)	6-1	190	4	Louisiana Tech	16/0	D5 04	D5 JAX 04	Has good leg and made 26 of 32 field-goal attempts last year.
88	Zelenka, Joe (LS/TE)	6-3	265	9	Wake Forest	16/0	FA 01	OFA SF 99	Nine-year veteran is a reliable long snapper.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Roosevelt Kiser (Florida A&M), D'Juan Woods (Oklahoma State); TEs Greg Estandia (1, Nevada-Las Vegas), Danny Murray (Connecticut), Tony Pudewell (Nevada); OTs Ryan Gibbons (1, Northeastern), Dan Parrish (Florida A&M); OG Pete McMahon (1, Iowa); QB Lester Ricard (Tulane); RB D.D. Terry (Sam Houston); DT Walter Curry (1, Albany State); S Jamar Landrom (1, Tennessee State); LS Brett Goode (Arkansas); PK Tony Yelk (1, Iowa State).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Passing offense. The Jaguars ranked 24th in passing offense and they're not going to get to the playoffs if they don't become more efficient in the passing game. Both quarterback Byron Leftwich and his receiving corps has to become more productive.

*Playcalling. Dirk Koetter was hired as the team's third offensive coordinator in the last four years by coach Jack Del Rio. Koetter is supposed to give the Jaguars an offense that can make long strikes in the passing game. The question is whether the Jaguars have the right players to make his scheme work.

*Turnover ratio. The Jaguars were just plus-1 in turnover ratio last year, mainly because they recovered only four fumbles, the fewest in the league. The defense, which had 20 interceptions, tied for sixth most in the league, needs to become better at causing and creating fumbles.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Byron Leftwich

Byron Leftwich is at the make or break point in his career as he enters his fifth season.

Leftwich, who has missed 15 of the last 21 regular-season games with injuries, was handed the starting job by coach Jack Del Rio in February because David Garrard failed to get the team to the playoffs while going 5-5 in the last 10 games in place of Leftwich.

Leftwich is entering the final year of his contract and if he has a big year, he'll be due for a big contract and could probably pick his own team because it would cost the Jaguars $12.6 million to franchise him.

If Leftwich struggles again or gets hurt, he'll become another David Carr, the former No. 1 pick of the Texans who was cut this year.

Complicating the situation is Leftwich's rift with coach Jack Del Rio, who pulled him after six games last year with an ankle injury. Leftwich felt he could play on the tender ankle, but Del Rio disagreed. Also, Del Rio distanced himself from Leftwich when he went public and admitted he wanted to draft Brady Quinn.

Leftwich is running out of time to show he can become the quarterback he was supposed to be when he was the seventh pick in the 2003 draft.

ing a torn pectoral muscle last year and missed the last 11 games.

Darryl Smith moved from the outside to the inside to replace Peterson and led the team in tackles because the Jaguars' scheme frees the middle linebacker to roam sideline to sideline. Peterson's injury also enabled Clint Ingram to emerge as a starter on the outside.

And they drafted another fast linebacker in the second round in Justin Durant. In addition, they have Pat Thomas coming back from the injured list. They're so strong at the position that Nick Greisen, who started 10 games last year, may have trouble winning a starting job.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

The Jaguars are set at the cornerback slots with Rashean Mathis, who made the Pro Bowl for the first time while tying for third in the NFL with eight interceptions, and Brian Williams, who was lured a year go from Minnesota as a free agent. Although he only had one interception, Williams was good enough to stop teams from throwing away from Mathis all the time. Terry Cousin and Scott Starks play in the nickel and dime packages.

They had a hole at safety, though, after Deon Grant left in free agency, but they replaced Grant with top draft pick Reggie Nelson. Donovin Darius, who was sidelined with major injuries two years in a row, returns at strong safety after breaking his leg last year. If he has injury problems, Gerald Sensabaugh can replace him the way he did last year.

RATING: 8

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Jaguars went into the off-season needing a punter and a punt returner. The problems at those positions cost Pete Rodriguez his job last year and Joe DeCamillis was brought in to replace him.

They made DeCamillis' job easier when they filled the two holes by drafting punter Adam Podlesh in the fourth round and signing wide receiver/punt returner Dennis Northcutt as a free agent.

They also need to upgrade their coverage teams, but they have a solid kicker in Josh Scobee, a dangerous kick returner in Jones-Drew and a dependable long snapper in veteran Joe Zelenka.

RATING: 7.5

INTANGIBLES

The Jaguars are something of a soap opera off the field. Coach Jack Del Rio isn't on the same page with personnel chief James Harris. Del Rio wanted to draft Brady Quinn, but Harris, who still believes in Byron Leftwich, nixed the idea. If Leftwich falters this year, Harris, not Del Rio, will be responsible because Del Rio wanted to start over with Quinn.

RATING: Minus 2

—Vito Stellino

2006 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 10	DALLAS	24-17
Sep. 18	PITTSBURGH	9- 0
Sep. 24	at Indianapolis	14-21
Oct. 1	at Washington (OT)	30-36
Oct. 8	N.Y. JETS	41- 0
Oct. 15	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 22	at Houston	7-27
Oct. 29	at Philadelphia	13- 6
Nov. 5	TENNESSEE	37- 7
Nov. 12	HOUSTON	10-13
Nov. 20	N.Y. GIANTS	26-10
Nov. 26	at Buffalo	24-27
Dec. 3	at Miami	24-10
Dec. 10	INDIANAPOLIS	44-17
Dec. 17	at Tennessee	17-24
Dec. 24	NEW ENGLAND	21-24
Dec. 31	at Kansas City	30-35

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	at Miami (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 18	TAMPA BAY (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 23	at Green Bay (Thu.)	7:00
Aug. 30	WASHINGTON (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 9	TENNESSEE	1:00
Sep. 16	ATLANTA	1:00
Sep. 23	at Denver	2:05
Sep. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	at Kansas City	12:00
Oct. 14	HOUSTON	1:00
Oct. 22	INDIANAPOLIS (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 28	at Tampa Bay	4:05
Nov. 4	at New Orleans	12:00
Nov. 11	at Tennessee	12:00
Nov. 18	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Nov. 25	BUFFALO	1:00
Dec. 2	at Indianapolis	1:00
Dec. 9	CAROLINA	1:00
Dec. 16	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Dec. 23	OAKLAND	1:00
Dec. 30	at Houston	12:00

TENNESSEE TITANS

2006 RECORD: 8-8 | STADIUM: LP Field, 68,804, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: T 3rd

AFC SOUTH | www.titansonline.com

AT A GLANCE

460 Great Circle Road
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 565-4000

TRAINING CAMP:
Baptist Sports Park; Nashville, TN

COACH:
Jeff Fisher, 14th full year with Titans and as NFL head coach (110-97)

PRESIDENT/COO:
Bud Adams

GENERAL MANAGER:
Mike Reinfeldt

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Rich Snead

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Mike Ackerley

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Lake Dawson

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Norm Chow	Offensive coordinator	3	3
Craig Johnson	Quarterbacks	8	8
Mike Munchak	Offensive line	11	11
Sherman Smith	*Running backs	13	13
Fred Graves	Receivers	6	1
John Zernhelt	Tight ends	3	2
Jim Schwartz	Defensive coordinator	15	9
Jim Washburn	Defensive line	9	9
Dave McGinnis	*Linebackers	22	4
Chuck Cecil	Secondary	7	7
Marcus Robertson	Assistant Secondary	1	1
Matt Burke	Defensive quality control	2	2
Alan Lowry	Special teams	26	12
Marty Galbraith	Special teams assistant	5	3
Steve Watterson	Strength & Conditioning	24	22

*Assistant head coach

Free-Agent Losses Have Titans Playing Catch-up

The Titans headed into the off-season filled with promise. They recovered from an 0-5 start in 2006 and if they'd won their finale they would have made the playoffs.

But all the optimism coming off Vince Young's Offensive Rookie of the Year season in 2006 was quickly tempered by tough losses in free agency (Travis Henry, Drew Bennett, Bobby Wade) and the Pacman Jones drama that resulted in a year-long suspension for bad behavior.

Now, it's a team counting on a lot of youngsters to finally play to their potential if it's to have a chance of meeting Young's pledge at the end of his first season.

"We will be in the playoffs next year," Young promised. "The Tennessee Titans are the new picture. We're young and we've got a lot of fire."

With another tough schedule and without the dynamic Jones on defense and as the return man, the Titans actually appear more likely to take a step back.

The Titans didn't fill all their needs in free agency and the draft and will head into training camp with big, lingering questions at defensive end, receiver and running back.

The two biggest additions came in the secondary.

With Jones out, the Titans hope free-agent cornerback Nick Harper will be a settling force and plan to test first-round draft pick Michael Griffin in multiple roles before deciding where he can best help.

Still, several stars will need to align and a combination of inexperienced players will all have to make big, simultaneous leaps forward in order for the Titans to contend.

COACHING

Jeff Fisher guided his team to an 8-8 record after a miserable 0-5 start in 2006 and is expected to sign a long-term extension before entering the final year of his deal in the fall. He's got a solid staff filled with good teachers. Offensive coordinator Norm Chow heads into his third year and still doesn't have a complement of weapons he's comfortable with. New receivers coach Fred Graves will be under the microscope as he takes his turn at a long-term position of concern. But the group will have a lot of youngsters to get ready to play, after an off-season where the Titans lost arguably their best player on offense, running back Travis Henry, and defense, cornerback Pacman Jones.

RATING: 8

QUARTERBACKS

Young had some glorious moments in his Offensive Rookie of the Year season. He showed off great intangibles, ran spectacularly and even had things go right when he called a play incorrectly in the huddle. He's got to improve his decision-making and accuracy in the passing game, but there is no reason not to expect progress. Behind him is veteran Kerry Collins, who was a helpful mentor for

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
CB Nick Harper

Harper will be asked to do a lot more in the Titans' scheme than he was in Indianapolis and he's looking forward to showing he's capable. In Pacman Jones' absence, expectations for the veteran will be high.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Ryan Fowler, WR Justin Gage, QB Tim Rattay, S Bryan Scott

KEY LOSS:
RB Travis Henry (14/13)*
Henry worked hard to establish himself and really keyed the team's best moments on offense last year. Deemed too pricey, he was let go and jumped to Denver.

OTHER LOSSES
WR Drew Bennett (16/15), LB Colby Bockwoldt (16/1), RB Chris Brown (5/3), CB Pacman Jones (15/15), TE Erron Kinney (0/0), G Zach Piller (3/3), LB Peter Sirmon (16/15), DT Robaire Smith (15/12), WR Bobby Wade (16/2)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
17; 9 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

Young last season. Collins can play without getting many practice reps, but if Young goes down, the Titans will be in trouble. The defense also counts on Collins for quality scout-team work. Tennessee went without a third quarterback on their 53-man roster in 2006 for the first time, but added Tim Rattay in mid-May for 2007.

RATING: 6.5

RUNNING BACKS

Titans players were disappointed to lose Travis Henry, who ran great in 2006 and had helped the offense bond by arranging weekly meetings with the running backs and offensive line. But the Titans balked at a big roster bonus, misread the market and watched him quickly sign with Denver. That leaves the Titans counting on unproven second-year man LenDale White and second-round draft pick Chris Henry to handle the workload in the backfield.

Another second-year player, Quinton Ganther, can be the third guy, if he's good on special teams. Ahmard Hall showed he can do quality work paving the way as the fullback. The Titans have been talking about finding a third-down type for a couple years, but didn't add one. Henry's skills as a pass catcher may make him suited to the role.

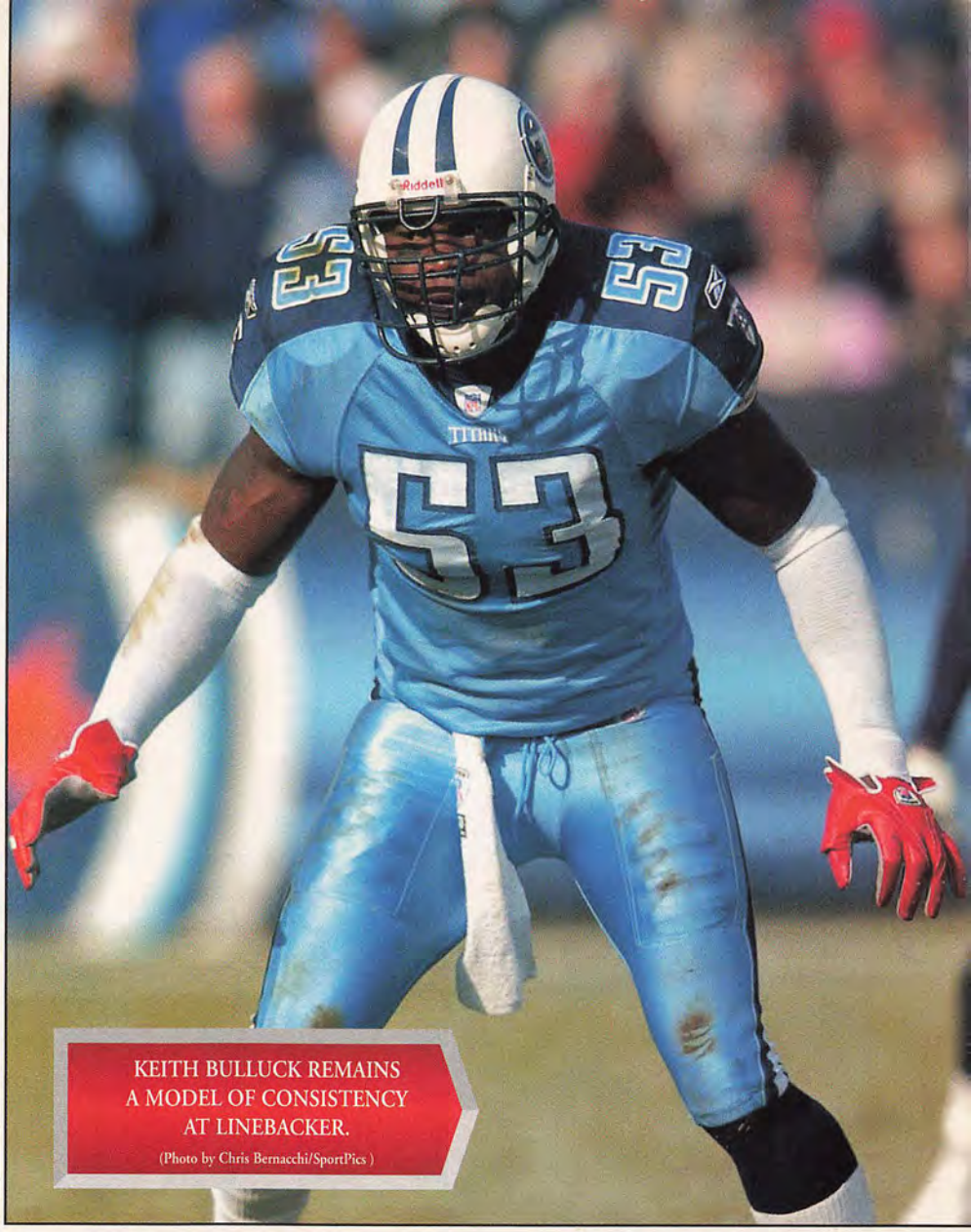
RATING: 6

RECEIVERS

The Titans are a mess at wide receiver, where they hope Brandon Jones is about to break out. But David Givens probably won't be ready for the start of the season as he recovers from a serious knee injury. Will the newcomers (free agent Justin Gage and draft picks Paul Williams, Chris Davis and Joel Filani) be as good as the departures (Drew Bennett, Bobby Wade)? The group offers more options with size. Don't be surprised if second-year man Jonathan Orr makes a charge.

At tight end, they continue to wait on Ben Troupe to emerge as any kind of reliable threat. Bo Scaife is talented as a pass-catcher, but can get worn down if asked to do more than his share. Ben Hartsock might be the blocker they are looking for. They no longer have Erron Kinney to lean on for guidance, as the injured veteran who didn't make it on the field last year was let go.

RATING: 6



KEITH BULLUCK REMAINS A MODEL OF CONSISTENCY AT LINEBACKER.

(Photo by Chris Bernacchi/SportPics)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

While the group will miss Henry, they showed last year that an overhaul of personnel worked. The five starters are locked in: left tackle Michael Roos is blossoming into the well-rounded player they hoped for; left guard Jacob Bell is improving; center Kevin Mawae is a solid, mobile, leader; right guard Benji Olson can still be good; and right tackle David Stewart is a mauler. Zach Piller was let go and moved on to Detroit (where he was then released), so the primary interior backup is now Eugene Amano, who's done OK in limited chances.

Veteran Seth Wand is the main tackle backup. Two draft picks, Leroy Harris and Mike Otto, will be new projects for Hall of Fame line coach Mike Munchak.

RATING: 8

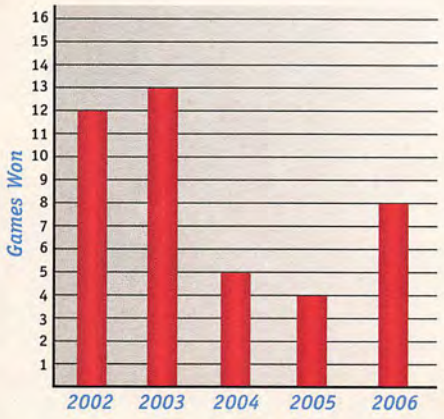
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Kyle Vanden Bosch drew all the attention last season and was slowed down as a rusher because of it. The off-season didn't do much to help him as the only addition was sixth-round speedster Jacob Ford. Travis LaBoy is best if he's only asked to play a low number of snaps as a rush specialist. Antwan Odom's injury history has made it so that he's a bonus if he can play. The Titans think they're OK inside despite their run defense troubles a year ago.

If Albert Haynesworth stays the course, he still hasn't hit his ceiling. If Randy Starks doesn't show significant improvement, his opportunity could be over. Rien Long, back after a missed year from an Achilles injury, will be a help and Tony Brown can contribute inside or out. Jesse Mahelona could be kicked aside by Antonio Johnson.

RATING: 7

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2002, 2003*

Titans Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
48	Cramer, Casey (TE)	6-2	250	4	Dartmouth	15/0	W,CARO 06	D7 TB 04	Value is in his versatility as he can play on the line or as a fullback.
17	Davis, Chris	5-10	181	R	Florida State	0/0	D4 07	D4 TENN 07	Return man has the qualities the Titans like in their slot receiver.
16	Filani, Joel	6-2	211	R	Texas Tech	0/0	D6 07	D6 TENN 07	Will run and shoot experience at Texas Tech translate in the NFL?
12	**Gage, Justin**	**6-4**	**212**	**5**	**Missouri**	**8/0**	**UFA,CHI 07**	**D5 CHI 03**	**Has a lot to prove after falling out of favor in Chicago.**
87	*Givens, David	6-0	215	6	Notre Dame	5/5	UFA,NE 06	D7 NE 02	Unlikely to be ready for start of season as he rehabs nasty knee injury.
88	Hartsock, Ben (TE)	6-4	255	4	Ohio State	6/3	W,IND 06	D3 IND 04	Titans hope he can be the reliable, on-the-line, blocking tight end.
81	**Jones, Brandon**	**6-1**	**212**	**3**	**Oklahoma**	**16/10**	**D3 05**	**D3 TENN 05**	**Tennessee's best hope at a position undergoing major renovations.**
85	Orr, Jonathan	6-1	193	2	Wisconsin	0/0	D6 06	D6 TENN 06	Though he made a lot of plays in practice, didn't get chances as a rookie.
82	Roby, Courtney	6-0	189	3	Indiana	12/0	D3 05	D3 TENN 05	Has done little to gain the team's confidence, could be kick returner.
80	Scaife, Bo (TE)	6-3	249	3	Texas Tech	14/12	D6 05	D6 TB 05	Tends to make more clutch plays than should be expected.
84	***Troupe, Ben (TE)**	**6-4**	**270**	**4**	**Florida**	**10/9**	**D2 04**	**D2 TENN 04**	**Overdue to play a full season and contribute consistently.**
89	Wallace, Cooper (TE)	6-3	258	1	Auburn	2/1	FA 06	OFA CHI 06	Local guy is a hard worker who will start camp as the fourth tight end at best.
11	Williams, Paul	6-1	205	R	Fresno State	0/0	D3 07	D3 TENN 07	Nice size, speed and ability, but carries desire questions.
86	Williams, Roydell	6-0	187	3	Tulane	14/0	D4 05	D4 TENN 05	Ranks ahead of Roby, but has hardly panned out as hoped.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
54	Amano, Eugene (C)	6-3	310	4	Southeast Missouri	16/1	D7 04	D4 TENN 04	Seems like decent interior depth, but still largely unproven.
60	**Bell, Jacob (G)**	**6-4**	**295**	**4**	**Miami (Ohio)**	**15/15**	**D5 04**	**D5 TENN 04**	**Now an established starter, the team would still like him to gain strength.**
73	Geisinger, Justin (C/G)	6-3	322	3	Vanderbilt	2/0	FA 06	D6 BUFF 05	One of several in mix for backup interior line spots.
64	Harris, Leroy (G/C)	6-3	302	R	North Carolina State	0/0	D4 07	D4 TENN 07	Fourth-rounder should help strengthen interior depth.
70	*Loper, Daniel (T)	6-6	320	3	Texas Tech	8/0	D5 05	D5 TENN 05	Unproven depth at tackle; he suffered a lacerated spleen last season.
68	**Mawae, Kevin (C)**	**6-4**	**289**	**14**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D2 SEA 94**	**His tone-setting in the locker room has been invaluable.**
69	Ogden, Marques (T)	6-5	300	2	Marshall	0/0	FA 07	D6 JAX 03	Related to Ravens' Jonathan Ogden, but not nearly the same player.
75	**Olson, Benji (G)**	**6-4**	**320**	**10**	**Washington**	**15/15**	**D5 98**	**D5 TENN 98**	**With punter Hentrich, he's not the Titans' elder statesman.**
66	Otto, Mike (T)	6-5	308	R	Purdue	0/0	D7 07	D7 TENN 07	Brings a ton of Big 10 experience with him from Purdue.
71	**Roos, Michael (T)**	**6-7**	**315**	**3**	**Eastern Washington**	**16/16**	**D2 05**	**D2 TENN 05**	**Already a refined pass protector and is improving in the run game.**
76	**Stewart, David (T)**	**6-7**	**318**	**3**	**Mississippi State**	**14/14**	**D4 05**	**D4 TENN 05**	**They said he'd be like Jon Runyan, and it turns out he is.**
64	Wand, Seth (T)	6-7	327	5	Northwest Missouri	7/0	FA 06	D3 HOUS 03	In-season addition last year ranks as the primary backup for young tackles.
RUNNING BACKS									
35	Ganther, Quinton	5-9	214	1	Utah	2/0	FA 07	D7 TENN 06	Showed promise as a rookie, but will rank third at best.
45	**Hall, Ahmard (FB)**	**5-11**	**242**	**2**	**Texas**	**14/7**	**OFA 06**	**OFA TENN 06**	**Easily the best fullback the Titans have had since Lorenzo Neal.**
29	Henry, Chris	5-11	230	R	Arizona	0/0	D2 07	D2 TENN 07	Second-rounder brought in to press last year's second rounder, White.
25	**White, LenDale**	**6-1**	**235**	**2**	**Southern Cal**	**13/0**	**D2 06**	**D2 TENN 06**	**His performance will have a huge bearing on the Titans' fortunes on offense.**
QUARTERBACKS									
5	Collins, Kerry	6-5	245	13	Penn State	4/3	FA 06	D1 CAR 95	His value is in behind the scenes mentoring and scout-team work.
6	Rattay, Tim	6-0	200	8	Louisiana Tech	4/2	UFA,TB 07	D7 SF 00	Last year, the Titans kept only two quarterbacks, so he'll have to turn heads to make it three again.
10	**Young, Vince**	**6-5**	**233**	**R**	**Texas**	**15/13**	**D1 06**	**D1 TENN 06**	**Team expects great strides in decision-making, reads and accuracy.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
97	Brown, Tony (T)	6-3	285	3	Memphis	13/2	FA 06	OFA CARO 03	Swingman may be asked to stop the run while rushers rest.
77	Conover, Sean (E)	6-5	262	2	Bucknell	6/2	FA 06	OFA TENN 06	End-of-the-roster type who works hard, but shouldn't be relied on yet.
78	Ford, Jacob (E)	6-4	249	R	Central Arkansas	0/0	D6 07	D6 TENN 07	Only Gaines Adams ran faster in advance of the draft, but Ford will be best as part of rotation.
92	**Haynesworth, Albert (T)**	**6-6**	**320**	**6**	**Tennessee**	**11/10**	**D1 02**	**D1 TENN 02**	**Pacman's problems helped take the spotlight off Big Albert.**
96	Johnson, Antonio (T)	6-3	310	R	Mississippi State	0/0	D5 07	D5 TENN 07	Big tackle looks to be a capable run stuffer with promise of rounding out.
91	**LaBoy, Travis (E)**	**6-3**	**260**	**4**	**Hawaii**	**13/11**	**D2 04**	**D2 TENN 04**	**Can be a quality rusher when he's healthy, but snaps are limited.**
99	*Long, Rien (T)	6-6	300	5	Washington State	0/0	D4 03	D4 TENN 03	Return from injury will provide a boost to interior pass rush.
94	Mahelona, Jesse (T)	6-0	311	2	Tennessee	10/1	D5 06	D5 TENN 06	Things didn't click for him as a rookie, when a contribution was expected.
98	*Odom, Antwan (E)	6-5	274	4	Alabama	4/2	D2 04	D2 TENN 04	Injury troubles have sidetracked him repeatedly.
95	Savage, Josh (E)	6-4	276	3	Utah	5/0	W,ATL 06	OFA TB 04	Got passed on the depth chart by Conover, an undrafted free agent from Bucknell.
90	**Starks, Randy (T)**	**6-3**	**312**	**4**	**Maryland**	**16/8**	**D3 04**	**D3 TENN 04**	**Two years in, he's yet to be half the player the team expected.**
93	**Vanden Bosch, Kyle (E)**	**6-4**	**278**	**7**	**Nebraska**	**16/16**	**UFA,ARIZ 05**	**D2 ARIZ 01**	**Titans need other linemen to rush well for him to be his best.**
LINEBACKERS									
53	**Bulluck, Keith (O)**	**6-3**	**235**	**8**	**Syracuse**	**16/16**	**D1 00**	**D1 TENN 00**	**Off-season losses had to hurt the standard bearer for the defense.**
52	**Fowler, Ryan (M)**	**6-3**	**250**	**4**	**Duke**	**16/0**	**RFA, DALL 07**	**OFA DALL 04**	**Titans will ask him to stuff the run, be a special teams stud.**
59	Gardner, Gilbert (O)	6-1	228	4	Purdue	15/12	W,IND 07	D3 IND 04	Started 12 games for Colts last season, but released in May. Titans think he can help.
57	Nande, Terna (O)	6-0	230	1	Miami, Ohio	1/0	FA 06	D5 TENN 06	Disappointing learning curve as a rookie, when he was mostly on practice squad.
51	*Reynolds, Robert (M)	6-3	247	4	Ohio State	4/0	D5 04	D5 TENN 04	Bit player was fortunate Titans tendered him after off-the-field incident.
50	**Thornton, David (O)**	**6-2**	**225**	**6**	**North Carolina**	**16/13**	**UFA,IND 06**	**D4 IND 02**	**Excels in coverage, but didn't have quite the impact expected in 2006.**
49	Toone, Spencer (O)	6-2	240	1	Utah	3/0	FA 07	D7 TENN 06	His story was much like Nande's; needs to do better to win a spot as depth.
55	Tulloch, Stephen (M)	5-11	235	2	North Carolina State	16/3	D4 06	D4 TENN 06	Flashed some skills as a rookie, but Titans went and got Fowler for the middle linebacker job.
49	Woods, LeVar (O)	6-2	241	7	Iowa	14/0	FA 06	OFA ARIZ 01	They like his special teams work, but is he a reliable backup?
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
31	Finnegan, Cortland (CB)	5-10	188	2	Samford	16/2	D7 06	D7 TENN 06	Was solid in rookie season as nickel, and has a lot of upside still.
22	Fuller, Vincent (S)	6-1	190	3	Virginia Tech	16/0	D4 05	D4 TENN 05	Hasn't returned to form since an ankle injury his rookie year.
33	**Griffin, Michael (S)**	**6-0**	**202**	**R**	**Texas**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 TENN 07**	**Expected to step in and displace free safety Lamont Thompson.**
20	**Harper, Nick (CB)**	**5-10**	**182**	**7**	**Fort Valley State**	**15/15**	**UFA,IND 07**	**OFA IND 01**	**Former Colts corner qualifies as the team's biggest free-agent addition.**
21	**Hill, Reynaldo (CB)**	**5-11**	**185**	**3**	**Florida**	**15/14**	**D7 05**	**D7TENN 05**	**Shaky at times, but an accountable guy who learns from mistakes.**
24	**Hope, Chris (S)**	**6-0**	**208**	**6**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**UFA,PITT 06**	**D3 PITT 02**	**As a player and a locker-room guy, a revelation in his first season as a Titan.**
32	Jones, Pacman (CB)	5-10	185	3	West Virginia	15/15	D1 05	D1 TENN 05	Odds that his year-long suspension is shortened are small.
30	King, Eric (CB)	5-10	185	3	Wake Forest	11/0	W,BUFF 06	D5 BUFF 05	Didn't match his work in Buffalo once he got to Tennessee.
37	Lowry, Calvin (S)	5-11	200	2	Penn State	16/0	D4 06	D4 TENN 06	With the addition of Griffin, unlikely to earn a prominent defensive role.
23	Nickey, Donnie (S)	6-3	210	5	Ohio State	16/0	FA 04	D5 TENN 03	Could rank as the team's seventh safety, but solid on special teams.
38	Scott, Bryan (S)	6-1	219	5	Penn State	9/0	UFA,NO 07	D2 ATL 03	Free-agent addition didn't do a lot in Atlanta or New Orleans.
41	Smith, Ryan (CB)	5-10	173	R	Florida	0/0	D6 07	D6 TENN 07	Playmaker at college level may lack some size, but brings some fight.
28	Thompson, Lamont (S)	6-1	215	6	Washington State	16/16	FA 03	D2 CIN 02	The weak link in the secondary for most of the last two seasons.
36	*Waddell, Michael (CB)	5-10	180	3	North Carolina	0/0	D4 04	D4 TB 04	Speedster didn't play last season after off-the-field knee injury.
26	Woolfolk, Andre (CB)	6-2	197	5	Oklahoma	10/1	D1 03	D1 TENN 03	Only still around because his initial contract was for five years.
SPECIALISTS									
58	Amato, Ken (LS/LB)	6-2	245	5	Montana State	15/0	FA 03	OFA CARO 02	Reliable long snapper can fill in at linebacker in an emergency.
2	Bironas, Rob (K)	6-0	205	3	Auburn	16/0	FA 05	OFA GB 02	Graduated into roster lock last season with clutch kicks and long ones.
15	Hentrich, Craig (P)	6-3	213	14	Notre Dame	16/0	UFA,GB 98	D8 NYJ 93	Along with Olson, the Titan with the longest service time.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Biren Early (Houston), Richie Ross (1, Nebraska-Kearney), Clinton Solomon (1, Iowa); TE Jamie Petrowski (1, Indiana State); OT Charles Harris (Washington State); OGs Cody Douglas (1, Tennessee), Isaac Snell (1, North Dakota State); RBs DonTrell Moore (1, New Mexico), Danny Ware (Georgia); FB Jonathan Evans (1, Baylor); QBs David Koral (1, UCLA), Kent Smith (1, Central Michigan); DEs Nathaniel Adibi (1, Virginia Tech), Jermaine McElveen (UAB); LBs Colin Allred (1, Baylor), Jarvis Jackson (Georgia), Brock Stratton (Texas Tech); Ss Erik Keys (Ball State), Brandon Sharp (Louisville); PK John Vaughn (Auburn); P Glenn Pakulak (1, Kentucky)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*The class of 2004 is due to show up. The Titans need steady contributions from tight end Ben Troupe, defensive ends Travis LaBoy and Antwan Odom and defensive tackle Randy Starks if expected improvement is to occur.

*Fullback Ahmard Hall will play even better than he did as an undrafted rookie last season, and he'll be a key piece to any success for LenDale White and/or Chris Henry. He can catch, too.

*The Titans didn't add much at defensive end, so they are clearly expecting restricted free agent middle linebacker Ryan Fowler to have a big impact on their run defense. Fowler signed with the Titans after nearly signing with the Philadelphia Eagles.

ON THE HOT SEAT

LenDale White

Before the Titans parted ways with Travis Henry, LenDale White spoke about unseating him. No disrespect, White said, but his intention for his second season was to become the Titans' starting running back.

Then Henry disappeared in a money move, clearing the way for White, who's showed signs of new maturity since last season, but also reported to off-season conditioning heavy.

White's weight is not a big concern, coach Jeff Fisher insists.

"Players are going to gain some weight from the time the season ends and the start of the off-season program, it is not unusual," Fisher said. "The key is to be able to handle the workload and have the weight come off. I don't anticipate it being any problem. LenDale has been participating; he is working hard and it is what we expect of him."

Tennessee's offensive line blocked well for Henry last year. Now White and rookie Chris Henry have to prove they can find and use the same holes.

The Titans say they don't have concerns about the two inexperienced players in blitz pickup situations. But for fans, it may be the biggest worry when they consider the possibility of Vince Young falling victim to the Madden (EA Sports) cover jinx.

LINEBACKERS

The Titans are confident they found their middle linebacker in restricted free agency in former Dallas Cowboy Ryan Fowler, whose salary indicates he'll start over Stephen Tulloch. Keith Bulluck is a stalwart who's shown no signs of a drop off. But David Thornton wasn't quite as good as expected in his first season, when a shoulder injury contributed to some difficulties. With a year in the system, he's expected to be better. His strength is in coverage.

Depth is an issue, particularly on the outside. LeVar Woods is more of a special teams player and the team's two draft picks from a year ago, Terna Nande and Spencer Toone, didn't grasp things quickly at all.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

An improving group lost linchpin cornerback Pacman Jones to a full-season suspension from the league for his misconduct off the field. If he doesn't face further charges or get convicted in either of two unresolved incidents and avoids new troubles, he could be reinstated after 10 games. But it's unknown if the Titans will welcome him back. Free agent Nick Harper will help offset the loss and is looking forward to proving he can play man coverage as well as he played Cover 2 for the Colts. Reynaldo Hill is a bit iffy, but has the work ethic and accountability the team appreciates. Cortland Finnegan was solid as the nickel and could start.

Strong safety Chris Hope was excellent in his first year. If the Titans pair him with first-round draft pick Michael Griffin, they could make for a great duo. The incumbent free safety, Lamont Thompson, is constantly late to the ball or the ball carrier and never sees himself as at fault. If he's replaced, it will send a message about accountability.

RATING: 6.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

The return games took a major off-season hit with Jones' suspension and when Bobby Wade went to Minnesota as a free agent. While rookie Davis will have opportunities, receiver Courtney Roby is the fallback plan on kickoffs and Finnegan may be the best option on punts. Kicker Rob Bironas was super-clutch last season when his game-winning field goals included a 60-yarder against the Colts. Craig Hentrich remains a top punter and an excellent holder. Long snapper Ken Amato is pretty consistent.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

New general manager Mike Reinfeldt's first draft class is hard to read. The team will miss Jones on defense and special teams, but may feel a weight lifted without the distraction. The schedule is a toughie again.

RATING: Even

— Paul Kuharsky

2006 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 10	N.Y. JETS	16-23
Sep. 17	at San Diego	7-40
Sep. 24	at Miami	10-13
Oct. 1	DALLAS	14-45
Oct. 8	at Indianapolis	13-14
Oct. 15	at Washington	25-22
Oct. 22	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	HOUSTON	28-22
Nov. 5	at Jacksonville	7-37
Nov. 12	BALTIMORE	26-27
Nov. 19	at Philadelphia	31-13
Nov. 26	NEW YORK GIANTS	24-21
Dec. 3	INDIANAPOLIS	20-17
Dec. 10	at Houston(OT)	26-20
Dec. 17	JACKSONVILLE	24-17
Dec. 24	at Buffalo	30-29
Dec. 31	NEW ENGLAND	23-40

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	WASHINGTON (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 17	at New England (Fri.)	8:00
Aug. 24	at Buffalo (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 30	GREEN BAY (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	at Jacksonville	1:00
Sep. 16	INDIANAPOLIS	12:00
Sep. 24	at New Orleans (Mon.)	7:30
Sep. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	ATLANTA	12:00
Oct. 14	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Oct. 21	at Houston	12:00
Oct. 28	OAKLAND	12:00
Nov. 4	CAROLINA	12:00
Nov. 11	JACKSONVILLE	12:00
Nov. 19	at Denver (Mon.)	6:30
Nov. 25	at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 2	HOUSTON	12:00
Dec. 9	SAN DIEGO	12:00
Dec. 16	at Kansas City	12:00
Dec. 23	N.Y. JETS	3:15
Dec. 30	at Indianapolis	1:00

AFC WEST

CHARGERS DEFEND TITLE WITH NORV TURNER

This division has had a different champion each of the past five years. And the four previous winners proceeded to miss the playoffs the following season. So beware, San Diego.

The Chargers had a 14-2 season and then lost their first playoff game at home. They responded with a delayed firing of coach Marty Schottenheimer — waiting until after both coordinators left to accept head coaching jobs elsewhere. So a new staff headed by Norv Turner inherits a loaded roster. Turner coaches the same offensive system that was run under departed coordinator Cam Cameron, so it is hoped that continuity will continue the team's success.

The only certainty about the remainder of the division is that Oakland is still looking up. The Raiders are 15-49 in the four years since they were in the Super Bowl and are breaking in another new coach and quarterback.

DENVER BRONCOS

No other team reshapes its roster from year to year like the Broncos. Coach Mike Shanahan had another busy off-season. In free agency, he added running back Travis Henry, wide receiver Brandon Stokley and tight end Daniel Graham. Jay Cutler, embarking on his first full season as starting quarterback, will benefit from those additions.

Shanahan turned to defense in the draft, using three of his four picks on defensive linemen — which was unusual for him. After years of stockpiling ex-Cleveland Browns on his defensive front, Shanahan decided to grow his own.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

In his first season as coach, Herman Edwards improved his team's historically bad defense to 16th in the rankings. At the same time, the prolific offense Edwards inherited slumped to 16th. And the Chiefs made the playoffs for the first time in three years.

So we see Edwards continuing this transition of the Chiefs. Edwards has focused the offense around running back Larry Johnson and has taken quarterback Trent Green out of the mix. The philosophy has been to get younger. The Chiefs signed three potential defensive starters in free agency and added defensive tackles with two of his top three draft picks. Dick Vermeil would hardly recognize his former team, especially after the retirement of perennial All-Pro guard Will Shields.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Raiders boss Al Davis seethed as his team capped a four-year free fall with a 2-14 record. Davis sought to recapture the formula that launched his franchise's glory days in the 1960s.

He tapped a young coach, Southern Cal offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin, and paired him with a quarterback with a howitzer arm, No. 1 draft pick JaMarcus Russell. Kiffin, 31, is the youngest head coach in the NFL and the youngest — by one year over John Madden — in Raiders history. There is only one way to go — up. But how long will it take?

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

How bad was the relationship between general manager A.J. Smith and coach Marty Schottenheimer for the Chargers to fire Schottenheimer a month after a season in which they led the NFL with a 14-2 record? "Dysfunctional," club president Dean Spanos said of it.

With their coordinators long gone to head coaching jobs, Spanos replaced Schottenheimer with Norv Turner, an offensive specialist with failed stints as coach at Washington and Oakland. San Diego's roster is so loaded that the Chargers' biggest personnel moves were retaining guard Kris Dielman and backup running back Michael Turner.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. How much will the Raiders miss Randy Moss?

The disgruntled, if talented, receiver was traded to New England for a fourth-round draft pick in a housecleaning move by new coach Lane Kiffin. The Raiders never saw the Moss they thought they traded for in 2005.

2. Why did the Chargers hire Norv Turner, who has a career record of 59-83-1 with Washington and Oakland, as coach?

Even in his worst years, Turner's teams were good on offense. General manager A.J. Smith paired him with friend Ted Cottrell to run the Chargers' defense.

3. Will this be Larry Johnson's last season in Kansas City?

After piling up more than 3,500 yards and 38 touchdowns the past two seasons, the workhorse back with a chip on his shoulder is seeking to cash in on his next contract. The Chiefs may pass.

4. Who might be the best free-agent pickup of the season?

Running back Travis Henry has the perfect running style to mesh with Denver's famed zone-blocking scheme. He's a lock for 1,400 yards.

5. How long before JaMarcus Russell starts at quarterback for the Raiders?

Russell was said to be not as far along in development as Notre Dame's Brady Quinn, the other quarterback taken in the first round. But if veteran pickup Josh McCown doesn't win, a Russell vs. Quinn matchup in a Week 3 meeting against Cleveland could happen.

— Tony Grossi

LINDY'S NEEDS YOUR HELP!

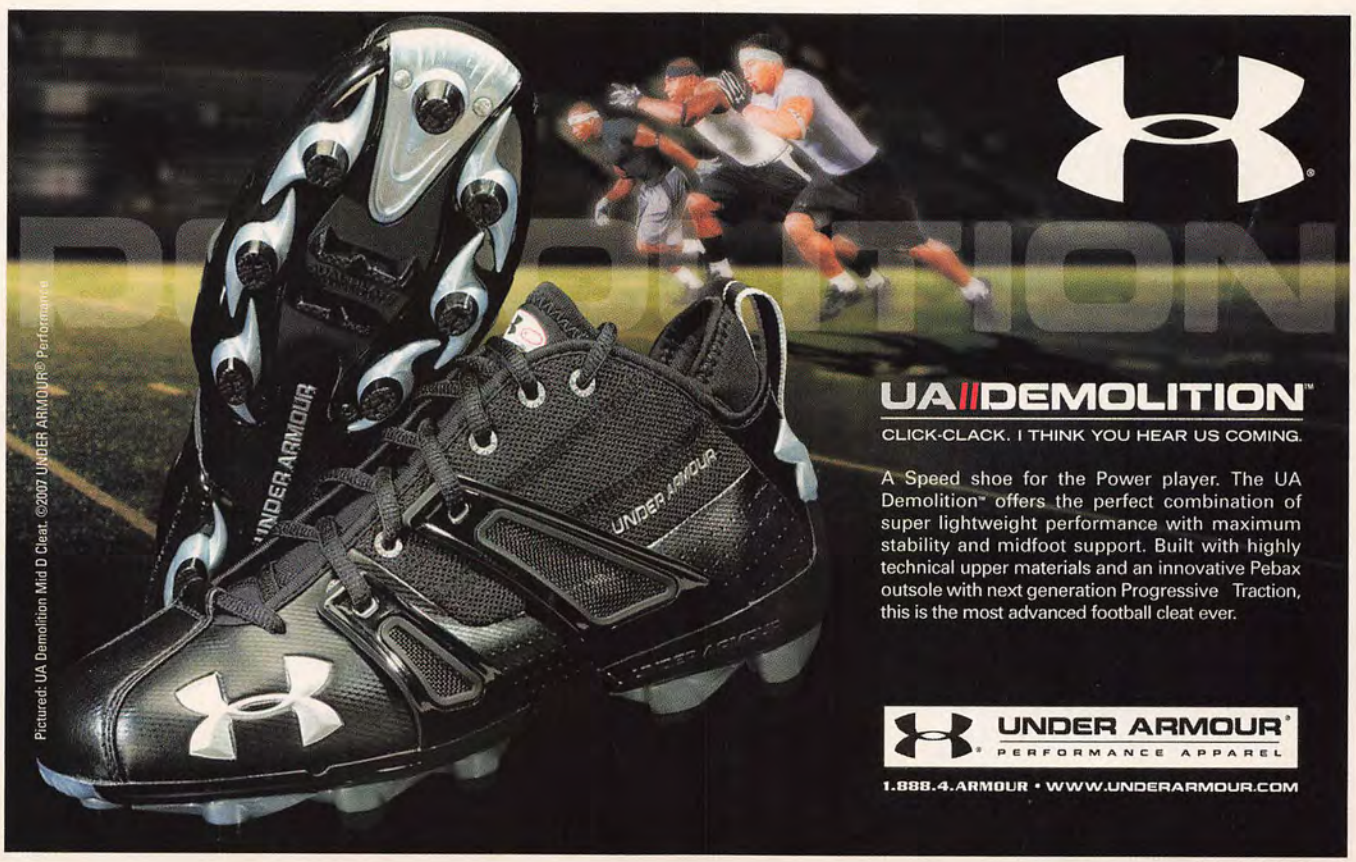
If you can spare a few minutes to answer some questions, your name will be entered into a drawing(s) for Pro Bowl tickets. Yes, tickets to the Pro Bowl in Hawaii. There will be multiple winners.

Answers to all questions are completely confidential. The survey will help us at *Lindy's* put out an even better magazine as we find out what you like or dislike about *Lindy's*. It will also help us with advertisers, which in turn lets us invest more into our magazines.

Your help will be greatly appreciated and you could be spending the New Year in Hawaii watching the Pro Bowl.

To participate in the survey just go to www.readersurvey.com/lindys

Sincerely,
Lindy Davis
Publisher


UA//DEMOLITION
CLICK-CLACK. I THINK YOU HEAR US COMING.
A Speed shoe for the Power player. The UA Demolition™ offers the perfect combination of super lightweight performance with maximum stability and midfoot support. Built with highly technical upper materials and an innovative Pebax outsole with next generation Progressive Traction, this is the most advanced football cleat ever.
UNDER ARMOUR
PERFORMANCE APPAREL
1.888.4.ARMOUR • WWW.UNDERARMOUR.COM
Pictured: UA Demolition Mid D Cleat. ©2007 UNDER ARMOUR® Performance

DENVER BRONCOS

2006 RECORD: 9-7 | STADIUM: INVESCO Field, 76,125, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

AFC WEST | www.denverbroncos.com

AT A GLANCE

13655 Broncos Parkway
Englewood, CO 80112
(303) 649-9000

TRAINING CAMP:
Paul D. Bowlen Memorial Broncos Centre; Englewood, CO

COACH:
Mike Shanahan, 13th year with Broncos (131-74); 14th full year as NFL head coach (139-86)

GENERAL MANAGER:
Ted Sundquist

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Jim Goodman

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Steve Watson	Associate head coach	7	7
Mike Heimerdinger	*Quarterbacks	13	7
Rick Dennison	Offensive coordinator/OL	13	13
Bobby Turner	Running backs	13	13
Jeremy Bates	Receivers/quarterbacks	6	2
Pat McPherson	Tight Ends	10	10
Jim Ryan	Offensive assistant	3	3
Jim Bates	Asst. head coach/defense	16	1
Bob Slowik	Defensive coordinator/DBs	16	3
Bill Johnson	Defensive line	7	1
Jacob Burney	Defensive line	14	6
Joe Baker	Linebackers	15	1
Ronnie Bradford	Assistant secondary	5	5
Charlie Jackson	Defensive assistant	2	1
Scott O'Brien	Special teams coordinator	17	1
Jimmy Spencer	Special teams assistant	5	5
Keith Burns	Special teams assistant	1	1
Ryan Slowik	Special teams assistant	3	3
Rich Tuten	Strength & Conditioning	13	13
Greg Saporta	Strength & Conditioning	13	13
Dwayne Chandler	Strength & Conditioning	1	1

*Assistant head coach

Cutler Holds Key to Broncos' Success

An overtime loss to the San Francisco 49ers in the final game of the 2006 season kept the Denver Broncos out of the playoffs. That began a tumultuous off-season, the most tragic in team history.

Hours after the loss, cornerback Darrent Williams was shot and killed. Less than two months later, running back Damien Nash collapsed at his home after playing in a charity basketball game, and he died, too.

The Broncos had to put their sorrow aside and focus on football, and they attacked the off-season with a flourish. They traded for cornerback Dre' Bly and signed running back Travis Henry and tight end Daniel Graham, meeting three of their biggest needs.

The coaching staff was overhauled. Defensive coordinator Larry Coyer was fired, replaced by Jim Bates. Special teams coach Ronnie Bradford was reassigned to defensive backs, and Scott O'Brien was hired to run the special teams.

The players understood exactly why there was so much change after a 9-7 season.

"We underachieved significantly last year," cornerback Domonique Foxworth said. "All this activity in the off-season is a testament to what we expect of our team."

The Broncos felt they weren't far off last year. They blew four second-half leads at home, including one to AFC West champion San Diego and another to Super Bowl champion Indianapolis.

The off-season improvements and the ability of second-year quarterback Jay Cutler could be enough to get Denver back in the playoffs.

COACHING

Coyer said he was aware as the season was winding down and his defense was struggling after a great start that something had to change, and it would probably be the defensive coordinator. He was right, and Bates was hired shortly after Coyer was let go. Bates has the title of assistant head coach/defense and will run the defense. Bob Slowik was promoted and has the title of defensive coordinator.

Shanahan made other moves, adding five new coaches. Other coaches were reassigned on the staff. He hopes the changes spark some creativity.

RATING: 8

QUARTERBACKS

A quarterback controversy started last season when the Broncos selected Jay Cutler in the first round, and it didn't end until Jake Plummer was benched after 11 games. Plummer had a miserable season, although he wasn't entirely to blame for the offense's problems. However, Cutler was a shot in the arm late in the year.

He struggled his first six quarters as a starter,

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
RB Travis Henry

Henry is a great match for the Broncos' style. The coaches want a back that can cut once and get downfield, which fits Henry's strengths. Henry should be Denver's most prolific back since Clinton Portis was traded three years ago.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
CB Dre' Bly, TE Daniel Graham, LB Warrick Holdman, G Montrae Holland, LB D.D. Lewis, DT Alvin McKinley, QB Patrick Ramsey, P Todd Sauerbrun, FB Paul Smith, WR Brandon Stokley, WR David Terrell

KEY LOSS:
LB Al Wilson (15/15)*
Even if Wilson was slowing down and affected by a neck injury, he was still the emotional leader of the defense. D.J. Williams might be able to match his production, but Wilson will be missed.

OTHER LOSSES
RB Tatum Bell (13/13), DE Courtney Brown (0/0), LB Keith Burns (15/0), G Cooper Carlisle (16/16), DE Patrick Chukwurah (14/0), T George Foster (16/13), DT Michael Myers (16/16), RB Damien Nash (3/0), QB Jake Plummer (16/11), CB Darrent Williams (15/14)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
15; 7 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

but he was very good down the stretch. He was the second rookie and fifth player in NFL history to throw multiple touchdowns in each of his first four games. The Broncos were thrilled at how he handled the pressure of a playoff race and are giddy over his potential.

Plummer decided to retire this off-season and was traded to Tampa Bay. Denver wanted an experienced backup so they signed Patrick Ramsey.

RATING: 6.5

RUNNING BACKS

Denver finally invested in a top tailback this off-season, quickly signing Travis Henry after he was released by Tennessee. The Broncos have famously made 1,000-yard backs out of lesser-known players. Mike Anderson, Reuben Droughns and Tatum Bell all gained 1,000 yards the past three seasons. Henry comes in with a history of success and if he stays healthy he should blow past 1,000 yards.

Mike Bell is the backup. He was effective as an undrafted rookie, especially near the goal line.

RATING: 8

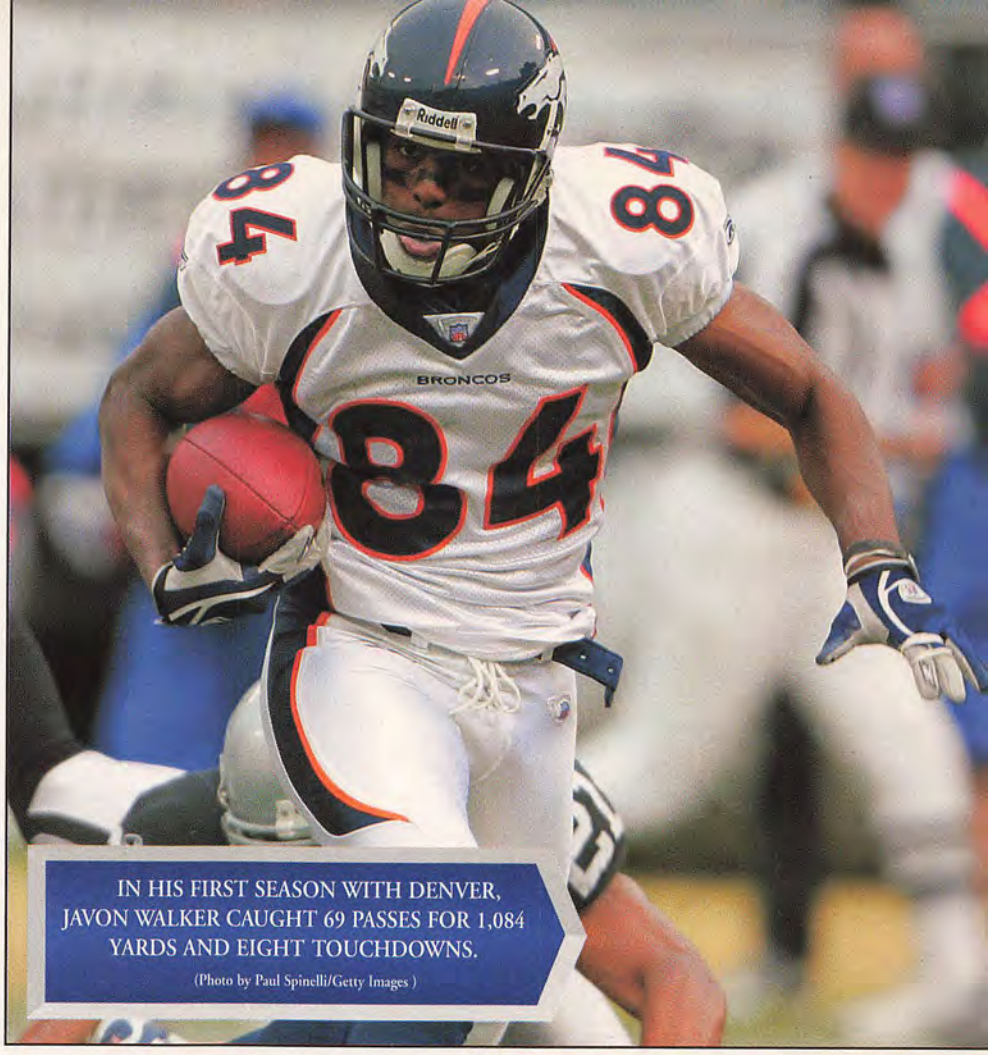
RECEIVERS

Despite unrest at the quarterback position and conservative play-calling when Plummer was struggling, Javon Walker had a 1,000-yard season. He should be even better this season, another year removed from ACL surgery. Walker complained at times about not getting the ball enough, and he was probably right. He was Denver's only threat at receiver most of the year.

That changed a bit when Cutler took over as quarterback. Two fellow rookies, receiver Brandon Marshall and tight end Tony Scheffler, thrived when Cutler was throwing the ball. Marshall, a big, fast receiver who had a jaw-dropping 71-yard touchdown against Seattle late last season, will get a chance to start. Rod Smith's stats plummeted and he needed off-season hip surgery to clean out tissue. He should be ready by training camp, but will be 37-years old. Former Colt Brandon Stokley was added, but he is recovering from a torn Achilles' tendon.

Scheffler came on strong late last season, and he should be a contributor in two-tight end sets with free-agent addition Daniel Graham. The Broncos plan on using Graham in the passing game more than New England did.

RATING: 7



IN HIS FIRST SEASON WITH DENVER, JAVON WALKER CAUGHT 69 PASSES FOR 1,084 YARDS AND EIGHT TOUCHDOWNS.

(Photo by Paul Spinelli/Getty Images)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This group is one of the keys to Denver's season. By the end of last year, it was a mess. Underrated left tackle Matt Lepsis suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 6. Erik Pears had no experience, but finished the season at left tackle. He played hard and improved, but it was tough to fill Lepsis' shoes.

Right tackle was unsettled as well. George Foster was benched for Adam Meadows. Meadows got hurt, and Foster struggled when he went back in the lineup. Foster was traded this off-season, and Pears will move to right tackle.

Right guard Cooper Carlisle left as a free agent after the team didn't make much of an attempt to keep him. Second-year player Chris Kuper and free-agent signee Montrae Holland are the two leading candidates for the job.

The Broncos also need veteran stalwart center Tom Nalen to have another productive year at 36 years old.

RATING: 6.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Three of the Broncos' four draft picks were invested in the defensive line. End Jarvis Moss was picked in the first round, followed by end Tim Crowder in the second. Denver took a chance on troubled tackle Marcus Thomas, who was kicked off the team at Florida last season, in the fourth round. If Thomas pans out, he will immediately help Denver inside.

Kenard Lang and Ebenezer Ekuban will likely enter camp as the starting ends, although they should be pushed by Moss and Crowder.

Gerard Warren suffered through toe injuries last year and had a mediocre season at tackle. Alvin McKinley was signed as a free agent.

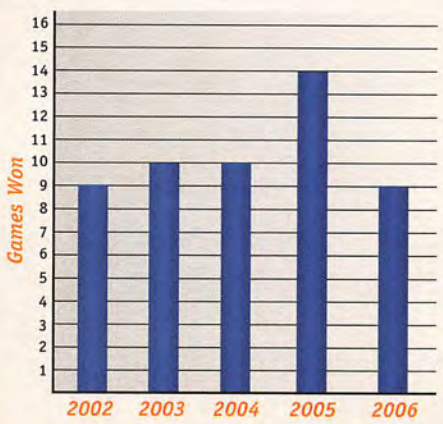
The Broncos lost tackle Michael Myers, a starter the past two years, in the off-season, but the staff didn't think he fit the new defense.

In Bates' scheme, the tackles will clog up the middle and the ends will line up wide and rush the quarterback.

Second-year pass-rushing specialist Elvis Dumervil should benefit from the change, as should the fast rookies at end.

RATING: 6

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004, 2005*

Broncos Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
82	Alexander, Stephen (TE)	6-4	250	10	Oklahoma	16/14	UFA,DET 05	D2 WSH 98	His role and spot on the roster are in question after Daniel Graham was signed.
19	Clark, Brian	6-2	204	2	North Carolina State	7/0	FA 06	OFA DEN 06	A young talent who got a shot on kickoff returns last year, but struggled a bit.
89	**Graham, Daniel (TE)**	**6-3**	**257**	**6**	**Colorado**	**12/11**	**UFA,NE 07**	**D1 NE 02**	**The Broncos think he can be a great blocker, and they'll use him in the passing game.**
12	*Hixon, Domenik	6-2	185	1	Akron	0/0	D4 06	D4 DEN 06	He could be Denver's punt returner this year; missed last year with a foot injury.
81	Jackson, Nate (TE)	6-3	235	4	Menlo	11/0	FA 03	OFA SF 02	He's a talented receiver who's improving as a blocker, but the position is deep.
	Johnson, Teyo (TE)	6-6	245	4	Stanford	0/0	FA 07	D2 OAK 03	With the depth at tight end, Johnson needs to have a great camp.
87	Kircus, David	6-2	192	4	Grand Valley State	16/0	FA 06	D6 DET 03	The third receiver last year, he'll face a lot of competition in camp this year.
15	**Marshall, Brandon**	**6-4**	**222**	**2**	**Cental Florida**	**15/1**	**D4 06**	**D4 DEN 06**	**Had a great finish last year and should crack the starting lineup.**
11	Morgan, Quincy	6-1	215	7	Kansas State	7/0	FA 06	D2 CLV 01	Came on late last season as a kickoff returner; will battle for that job again.
85	Mustard, Chad (TE)	6-6	277	4	North Dakota	12/4	FA 06	OFA CLV 02	A big blocker, he was a surprise on the roster and played sparingly.
88	Scheffler, Tony (TE)	6-5	250	1	Western Michigan	13/5	D2 06	D2 DEN 06	Has a great connection with Cutler; he's a tough matchup in two-tight end sets.
80	Smith, Rod	6-0	200	13	Missouri Southern	16/16	FA 95	OFA DEN 94	Had a down year, then had off-season hip surgery. He might lose his starting job.
14	*Stokley, Brandon	5-11	197	9	Southwestern Louisiana	4/1	FA 07	D4 BLT 99	If he comes back from an Achilles' tendon injury, he could compete for playing time.
13	Terrell, David	6-3	213	5	Michigan	0/0	FA 07	D1 CHI 01	Was cut before last season, then re-signed as insurance if others aren't healthy.
86	*Trusty, Landon (TE)	6-7	266	2	Central Arkansas	0/0	FA 06	OFA DALL 04	Spent all last season on injured reserve and will have a tough time making the team.
84	**Walker, Javon**	**6-3**	**209**	**6**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**T,GB 06**	**D1 GB 02**	**Was an immediate big-play threat who could also move the chains.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
67	*Eslinger, Greg (C)	6-3	290	2	Minnesota	0/0	D6 06	D6 DEN 06	Didn't look ready in training camp, then spent the season on IR with a shoulder injury.
50	**Hamilton, Ben (G/C)**	**6-4**	**283**	**7**	**Minnesota**	**16/16**	**D4 01**	**D4 DEN 01**	**A solid guard that fits the Broncos' zone blocking scheme very well.**
74	Harris, Ryan (T)	6-5	292	R	Notre Dame	0/0	D3 07	D3 DEN 07	Versatile and smart, the third-round pick could have a long career.
70	Holland, Montrae (G)	6-2	322	5	Florida State	8/0	UFA,NO 07	D4 NO 03	The Broncos like the former starter with the Saints; he'll compete at right guard.
73	**Kuper, Chris (G)**	**6-4**	**302**	**2**	**North Dakota**	**1/0**	**D5 06**	**D5 DEN 06**	**Had a good rookie training camp; could move into the starting lineup at right guard.**
78	***Lepsis, Matt (T)**	**6-4**	**290**	**11**	**Colorado**	**6/6**	**OFA 97**	**OFA DEN 97**	**He is athletic and holds up well against top pass rushers, but is coming off injury.**
75	Meadows, Adam (T)	6-5	290	9	Georgia	3/3	FA 06	D2 IND 97	Came out of retirement last year, but had a tough time staying healthy.
62	Myers, Chris (C/G)	6-4	300	3	Miami	16/0	FA 05	D6 DEN 05	A versatile utility lineman, who hasn't had much of a chance to prove himself.
66	**Nalen, Tom (C)**	**6-3**	**286**	**14**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**D7 94**	**D7 DEN 94**	**He has been the anchor of Denver's line for years, and he keys the run game.**
71	Nienhuis, Doug (T)	6-6	307	2	Oregon State	0/0	FA 07	D7 SEA 05	He has a little bit of experience and will compete in camp.
64	**Pears, Erik (T)**	**6-8**	**305**	**2**	**Colorado State**	**16/10**	**FA 06**	**OFA DEN 05**	**Tall and athletic, will compete at right tackle after filling in for Lepsis last year.**
69	Rogers, Jacob (T)	6-6	312	2	Southern Cal	0/0	FA 07	D2 DALL 04	Has a chance to turn around his disappointing career.
RUNNING BACKS									
30	Bell, Mike	6-0	220	2	Arizona	15/3	OFA 06	OFA DEN 06	Was inconsistent at times, but should once again be a reliable backup.
35	Fleming, Troy (FB)	6-0	245	3	Tennessee	0/0	FA 07	D6 TENN 04	Big fullback will have a chance to impress and make the team.
20	**Henry, Travis**	**5-9**	**215**	**7**	**Tennessee**	**14/13**	**FA 07**	**D2 BUFF 01**	**Low center of gravity helps his power running style.**
39	**Johnson, Kyle (FB)**	**6-0**	**242**	**4**	**Syracuse**	**14/7**	**FA 04**	**D5 CARO 02**	**Started last year; will be pushed to keep that spot this year.**
37	*Sapp, Cecil (FB)	5-11	229	5	Colorado State	11/1	FA 04	OFA DEN 03	Will get a chance to show he can play tailback because the Broncos are thin.
26	Smith, Paul (FB)	5-11	237	8	Texas-El Paso	10/3	UFA,STL 07	D5 SF 00	Can immediately play on special teams; will also be in the mix on offense.
QUARTERBACKS									
6	**Cutler, Jay**	**6-3**	**233**	**2**	**Vanderbilt**	**5/5**	**D1 06**	**D1 DEN 06**	**Strong arm, good athlete, handles pressure and looks like a franchise quarterback.**
5	Parsons, Preston	6-4	235	3	Northern Arizona	0/0	FA 07	OFA ARIZ 02	The Broncos like him, but they usually keep only two quarterbacks.
8	Ramsey, Patrick	6-2	225	6	Tulane	1/0	FA 07	D1 WSH 02	He could be a solid fill-in if Cutler misses any time.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
93	Burton, Antwon (T)	6-2	318	2	Temple	1/0	FA 06	OFA DEN 06	The big tackle should fit better in the new defensive scheme.
96	Crowder, Tim (E)	6-4	270	R	Texas	0/0	D2 07	D2 DEN 07	Should be stout against the run and fast off the edge to the quarterback.
92	Dumervil, Elvis (E)	5-11	250	2	Louisville	13/0	D4 06	D4 DEN 06	Slipped in the draft; rushed the passer well once given a shot to play.
91	**Ekuban, Ebenezer (E)**	**6-4**	**275**	**9**	**North Carolina**	**15/15**	**T,CLV 05**	**D1 DALL 99**	**Veteran had a good year; it's unknown how well he'll fit in the scheme.**
60	Engelberger, John (E)	6-4	252	8	Virginia Tech	16/1	T,SF 06	D2 SF 00	With two rookie ends on the roster, he'll need another big preseason.
94	Gordon, Amon (T)	6-2	305	3	Stanford	0/0	FA 07	D5 CLV 04	Hasn't done much yet, but coaches think he can provide depth.
98	Hall, Carlos (E)	6-4	259	5	Arkansas	0/0	FA 07	D7 TENN 02	Once effective pass rusher is looking to rejuvenate his career.
76	**Lang, Kenard (E)**	**6-3**	**264**	**11**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D1 WSH 97**	**Started last year, now wants to hold off the rookies to start again at age 32.**
99	**McKinley, Alvin (T)**	**6-3**	**294**	**8**	**Mississippi State**	**14/14**	**UFA,CLV 07**	**D4 CARO 00**	**Can play end or tackle, but the Broncos need him to play in the middle.**
95	Moss, Jarvis (E)	6-6	251	R	Florida	0/0	D1 07	D1 DEN 07	A great athlete who will play a lot if he proves he can stand up against the run.
90	Peterson, Kenny (E)	6-3	285	5	Ohio State	3/0	FA 06	D3 GB 03	Picked up for depth last year and played sparingly, his versatility is a plus.
77	Thomas, Marcus (T)	6-3	296	R	Florida	0/0	D4 07	D4 DEN 07	Talented tackle who was in trouble in college; the Broncos gambled on him.
97	Veal, Demetrin (T)	6-2	288	4	Tennessee	16/1	FA 04	D7 ATL 03	Good energy and solid interior pass rusher, he helps at a thin position.
61	**Warren, Gerard (T)**	**6-4**	**325**	**7**	**Florida**	**15/15**	**T,CLV 05**	**D1 CLV 01**	**Denver wants a bounce-back season after giving him a big contract a year ago.**
LINEBACKERS									
52	**Gold, Ian (O)**	**6-0**	**223**	**8**	**Michigan**	**15/15**	**FA 05**	**D2 DEN 00**	**A fast, heady playmaker who is good in coverage or against the run.**
53	Green, Louis	6-3	228	4	Alcorn State	16/0	FA 04	OFA BLT 02	Has established himself as a good special-teams coverage man.
56	**Holdman, Warrick (O)**	**6-1**	**243**	**9**	**Texas A&M**	**16/16**	**UFA,WSH 07**	**D4 CHI 99**	**Started for Washington last year, might do the same in Denver.**
57	Hollowell, T.J.	6-0	235	2	Nebraska	0/0	FA 07	OFA NYG 04	Needs to make a mark on special teams to be a factor.
54	*Lewis, D.D. (O)	6-1	241	5	Texas	5/1	UFA,SEA 07	OFA SEA 02	Has battled injuries, but could play a lot if he stays healthy.
51	Moore, Eddie	6-1	235	4	Tennessee	0/0	FA 07	D2 MIA 03	Will have to separate himself from a large group of outside linebackers.
58	Webster, Nate (M)	6-0	237	8	Miami	3/2	UFA,CIN06	D3 TB 00	Can back up at all three positions, could start on the outside this season.
55	**Williams, D.J. (M)**	**6-1**	**242**	**4**	**Miami**	**16/15**	**D1 04**	**D1 DEN 04**	**Had a good rookie season; three years later he could have a breakout year in the middle.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
21	Abdullah, Hamza (S)	6-2	216	3	Washington State	11/0	FA 05	D7 TB 05	Played well on special teams late in the year, the team likes his future.
24	**Bailey, Champ (CB)**	**6-0**	**192**	**9**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**T,WSH 04**	**D1 WSH 99**	**A rarity as an elite cover cornerback who is a superb tackler.**
32	**Bly, Dre' (CB)**	**5-10**	**188**	**9**	**North Carolina**	**16/16**	**T,DET 07**	**D2 STL 99**	**Balked about coming to Denver at first, now he's happy and a key piece of the secondary.**
42	*Brandon, Sam (S)	6-2	200	6	Nevada-Las Vegas	8/0	D4 02	D4 DEN 02	Coming off ACL surgery, if healthy he will be the top backup at safety.
38	Cargile, Steve (S)	6-2	210	1	Columbia	3/0	FA 06	OFA DLL 04	Big, athletic special teams player who impressed late last year.
40	Cox, Curome (CB)	6-1	204	3	Maryland	16/4	FA 05	OFA ATL 04	Was benched after a start at safety last year, is still valuable for his versatility.
25	***Ferguson, Nick (S)**	**5-11**	**201**	**8**	**Georgia Tech**	**10/10**	**FA 03**	**OFA CHI 99**	**Coming off minor knee surgery, the Broncos think he has good years left.**
22	Foxworth, Domonique (CB)	5-11	180	3	Maryland	16/5	D3 05	D3 DEN 05	Smart player who is improving and showed guts by starting at safety when needed.
31	Harris, Quentin (S)	6-1	213	6	Syracuse	6/0	FA 06	OFA ARIZ 02	Has experience and could be a backup at safety.
47	**Lynch, John (S)**	**6-2**	**220**	**15**	**Stanford**	**16/16**	**FA 04**	**D3 TB 93**	**Keeps himself in great shape, still a hard hitter and good playmaker.**
41	Paymah, Karl (CB)	6-0	200	3	Washington State	16/0	D3 05	D3 DEN 05	Yet to break through on defense, but can play special teams.
	Reid, Lamont (CB)	5-11	195	2	North Carolina State	0/0	FA 07	OFA ARIZ 05	Spent 2006 out of football, he's at a deep position in Denver.
28	Shoate, Jeff (CB)	5-10	180	3	San Diego State	0/0	FA 07	D5 DEN 04	Could be running out of chances to make an impact in the secondary.
SPECIALISTS									
1	Elam, Jason (K)	5-11	200	15	Hawaii	16/0	D3 93	D3 DEN 93	Hit a career best 93.1 percent of field-goal attempts at 36 years old last year.
3	Ernster, Paul (P/K)	6-0	217	3	Northern Arizona	16/0	FA 06	D7 DEN 05	Was inconsistent in 2006, might be out of a job with Sauerbrun back.
83	Leach, Mike (LS/TE)	6-2	245	8	William & Mary	16/0	FA 04	OFA TENN 00	There have been very few bad snaps for Denver since he was signed.
10	Sauerbrun, Todd (P)	5-10	215	12	West Virginia	2/0	UFA,NE 07	D2 CHI 95	Will be the favorite to punt, kick off and hold in his return to Denver.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Glenn Martinez (1, Saginaw Valley State), Marquay McDaniel (Hampton); OG Kevin McAlmont (1, Western Carolina); C Mark Fenton (Colorado); RBs Andre Hall (1, South Florida), Selvin Young (Texas); FB Thump Belton (1, Syracuse); QB Darrell Hackney (1, UAB); DT Steven Harris (Florida); LB Cameron Vaughn (1, Louisiana State); CB Eric Hill (1, Colorado State); S Roderick Rogers (Wisconsin); PK Brandon Pace (Virginia Tech)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*The Broncos will look much different on offense this year. Last year the staff became weary of Jake Plummer's mistakes and it affected the play-calling. They'll have many more options with Jay Cutler at quarterback and they worked hard to upgrade the talent around him.

*Broncos cornerback Dre' Bly could lead the NFL in interceptions. Teams still won't test Champ Bailey, so that will mean a lot of action for Bly, a superior playmaker, who has to limit the times he's beaten.

*D.J. Williams has never played middle linebacker, but it's one of the most important positions in Jim Bates' defensive scheme. Williams, who has been patiently waiting for his chance to be an impact player, should have more than 100 tackles.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Jay Cutler

Brian Griese and Jake Plummer failed, and now it's Jay Cutler's turn to make people in Colorado stop pining for John Elway.

Cutler came in with great expectations as the 11th overall pick of last year's draft, then put fans in a frenzy with how he finished the season. He started the last five games and threw nine touchdown passes, showing off his strong arm and athletic ability. Even the legend himself sounded ready to pass the torch.

"I think Jay's the guy," Elway said. "I think I'm going to answer those questions until they find the guy. I think Jay's got a chance to do it. Jake did a good job, but Cutler's just a different guy, a different style. He can throw the ball downfield and drop back a little bit."

Cutler did have moments of poor decision making, and there will be moments he tests Broncos coach Mike Shanahan's patience. He has played only five NFL games. But Cutler said having that experience and an off-season to prepare as the starter will help him avoid a sophomore slump.

"I'm going to be 100 times more comfortable this year," Cutler said.

LINEBACKERS

Middle linebacker Al Wilson had been the team's defensive captain since 2001 and was in the Pro Bowl last season, but he was released. He had a large base salary and health concerns with his neck.

D.J. Williams will finally get his chance to shine. The past two years he was taken off the field in passing situations and wasn't featured in the defense. He'll move from outside linebacker to replace Wilson in the middle. The Broncos think he fits the mold of a middle linebacker because he is big, fast and smart.

Ian Gold will be the weak-side linebacker and a trio of veterans — Nate Webster and newcomers Warrick Holdman and D.D. Lewis — will compete for the other outside spot.

RATING: 6.5

SECONDARY

Adding Bly to the secondary in a trade instantly gave the Broncos one of the best cornerback tandems in the league. Bly has been to two Pro Bowls and Champ Bailey is unquestionably the best cornerback in the NFL. Bailey rarely had the ball thrown his way last year and tied for the league lead with 10 interceptions. Against the Cardinals last season, he had two passes thrown his direction and he had two interceptions. Domonique Foxworth is an up-and-coming nickel cornerback.

The safeties are aging, but they're not a big concern to the Broncos. John Lynch had a solid season and Nick Ferguson was playing well before a minor knee injury late in the season knocked him out of action. Both starters are past 30 years old.

RATING: 9

SPECIAL TEAMS

Denver's special teams were a constant problem last year. They didn't have an effective return game and didn't cover well. The Broncos think hiring Scott O'Brien to coach special teams will have an immediate impact. The Broncos signed punter Todd Sauerbrun, who had a good year for Denver in 2005, but was released after serving a four-game suspension last year. He should help. Jason Elam is one of the most consistent kickers in the NFL and had a very good 2006, and long snapper Mike Leach is reliable. Quincy Morgan is a favorite to return kickoffs after finishing strong last year, and second-year receiver Domenik Hixon will get a look at punt returner.

RATING: 7.5

INTANGIBLES

Nobody knows how the off-season deaths will affect the team. They could rally together and overachieve, or they could be emotionally burdened all year. The organization has done a good job handling the situation, and the Broncos will try to appropriately honor Williams and Nash this season.

RATING: Even

— Frank Schwab

2006 RESULTS

Record: 9-7

Sep. 10	at St. Louis	10-18
Sep. 17	KANSAS CITY(OT)	9- 6
Sep. 24	at New England	17- 7
Oct. 1	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 9	BALTIMORE	13- 3
Oct. 15	OAKLAND	13- 3
Oct. 22	at Cleveland	17- 7
Oct. 29	INDIANAPOLIS	31-34
Nov. 5	at Pittsburgh	31-20
Nov. 12	at Oakland	17-13
Nov. 19	SAN DIEGO	27-35
Nov. 23	at Kansas City	10-19
Dec. 3	SEATTLE	20-23
Dec. 10	at San Diego	20-48
Dec. 17	at Arizona	37-20
Dec. 24	CINCINNATI	24-23
Dec. 31	SAN FRANCISCO (OT)	23-26

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 13	at San Francisco (Mon.)	5:00
Aug. 18	at Dallas (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 25	CLEVELAND (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 30	ARIZONA (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	at Buffalo	1:00
Sep. 16	OAKLAND	2:15
Sep. 23	JACKSONVILLE	2:05
Sep. 30	at Indianapolis	4:15
Oct. 7	SAN DIEGO	2:15
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	PITTSBURGH	6:15
Oct. 29	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	6:30
Nov. 4	at Detroit	1:00
Nov. 11	at Kansas City	12:00
Nov. 19	TENNESSEE (Mon.)	6:30
Nov. 25	at Chicago	12:00
Dec. 2	at Oakland	1:05
Dec. 9	KANSAS CITY	2:15
Dec. 13	at Houston (Thu.)	7:15
Dec. 24	at San Diego (Mon.)	5:00
Dec. 30	MINNESOTA	2:15

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

2006 RECORD: 9-8 | STADIUM: Arrowhead Stadium, 79,451, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

AFC WEST | www.kcchiefs.com

AT A GLANCE

One Arrowhead Drive
Kansas City, MO 64129
(816) 920-9300

TRAINING CAMP:
University of Wisconsin-River Falls; River Falls, WI

COACH:
Herman Edwards, 2nd year with Chiefs (9-8), 7th year as NFL head coach (50-52)

PRESIDENT:
Carl Peterson

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/COO:
Dennis Thum

VICE PRESIDENT PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Bill Kuharich

VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Lynn Stiles

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Chuck Cook

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Ray Farmer

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Mike Solari	Offensive coordinator	19	11
John Matsko	Offensive line	16	2
Bob Bicknell	Assistant offensive line	1	1
Dick Curl	Quarterbacks	5	2
James Saxon	Running backs	8	7
Charlie Joiner	Receivers	21	7
Jon Embree	Tight ends	2	2
Kevin Patullo	Offensive quality control	1	1
Gunther Cunningham	Defensive coordinator	26	10
Tim Krumrie	Defensive line	12	2
Don Blackmon	Linebackers	18	2
David Gibbs	Secondary	6	2
Mike Ketchum	Defensive assistant	2	2
Darvin Wallis	Defensive quality control	26	19
Mike Priefer	Special teams	6	2
Cedric Smith	Strength & Conditioning	7	1
Brent Salazar	Strength & Conditioning	1	1

*Assistant head coach

Chiefs Getting Younger, But Are They Better?

Everyone knew a transition was coming in 2006 when new Chiefs coach Herm Edwards began reshaping Dick Vermeil's go-go offense to match his more conservative, run-oriented image.

He ultimately turned Jane Fonda, an aging but still-elegant liberal, into Ann Coulter.

Edwards' 9-7 first season in Kansas City was a game off Vermeil's 10-6 final-season pace. But the Chiefs did squeeze into the playoffs, something Vermeil couldn't do the year before.

Once there, however, the same Chiefs who in 2003 lost a 38-31 shootout with the Colts, didn't get a first down until the third quarter of their 23-8 playoff loss at Indianapolis. Running back Larry Johnson was held to 32 yards rushing after averaging 112 a game in the regular season.

The transformation continues in 2007 as the Chiefs go from being one of the league's oldest teams to one of the youngest.

Perennial Pro Bowl guard Will Shields has joined Willie Roaf in retirement. Quarterback Trent Green no longer runs the offense. Dante Hall no longer returns kicks. Vermeil draft blunder Ryan Sims is gone. And while the Chiefs are vastly improved defensively — a principal reason Edwards was hired — the revamped offense is now scoring only 20 points a game, and the expectations of Chiefs' fans have dropped accordingly.

COACHING

Edwards scored points in his first Kansas City season in getting players to buy into his philosophy that solid defense and a turnover-free offense can win games 20-17 or 17-14. In the Vermeil era, the Chiefs' high-powered offense often had to score 31 or more to out-punch an opponent. Unfortunately, first-year coordinator Mike Solari's offense slipped to the point where the Chiefs lost games in which Gunther Cunningham's defense held the opponent to 9, 13 and 20 points (twice).

Offensively potent Indianapolis managed only nine points in the first half and 23 for the game in the playoffs and still won 23-8. Thus, Chiefs fans have reason to worry that the pendulum swung too far in the direction it inevitably had to go in the transformation from the Vermeil offensive heyday to the more conservative Edwards approach.

RATING: 7

QUARTERBACKS

The concussion sustained by Green in the 2006 opener jump-started an inevitable transformation at quarterback. Backup Damon Huard went 5-3 during Green's absence with an impressive 11-to-1 touchdown to interception ratio. When finally healthy at mid-season, Green didn't play as well (as reflected in his 74.1 rating) as in past years, and the decision to start Green over Huard in the play-

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
LB Donnie Edwards

The Chiefs still regret the day they elected to let Edwards escape via free agency to San Diego. Edwards' return should provide not only a proven playmaker, but some true defensive leadership.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
DT Alfonso Boone, LS J.P. Darche, LB Napoleon Harris, S Jon McGraw, T Damion McIntosh

KEY LOSS:
G Will Shields (16/16)*
The quiet Shields didn't have to speak to be an inspiration. The work ethic and preparation he showed in playing 224 consecutive games, 223 of them as a starter cannot be replaced by merely filling a position.

OTHER LOSSES
CB William Bartee (0/0), T Jordan Black (16/15), RB Dee Brown (15/0), FB Ronnie Cruz (5/3), LS Kendall Gammon (16/0), WR/KR Dante' Hall (15/0), DE Eric Hicks (16/0), S Sammy Knight (16/16), LB Kawika Mitchell (16/16), DT Ryan Sims (16/0), T Kyle Turley (7/7), CB Lenny Walls (16/2)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 9 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

off game was a controversial one. With Green now out of the picture, 2006 third-round draft pick Brodie Croyle will be given every opportunity to prove he can be the team's quarterback of the future — and present. Huard will be the bridge until that day comes.

RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

Larry's Johnson's NFL single-season record of 416 carries (for 1,789 yards) isn't one the Chiefs want to see repeated any time soon. Too much wear and tear, and people wonder how long the still-young Johnson can continue to take that kind of pounding. Oft-injured backup Michael Bennett didn't provide much relief (only 36 carries), so he'll have to step up.

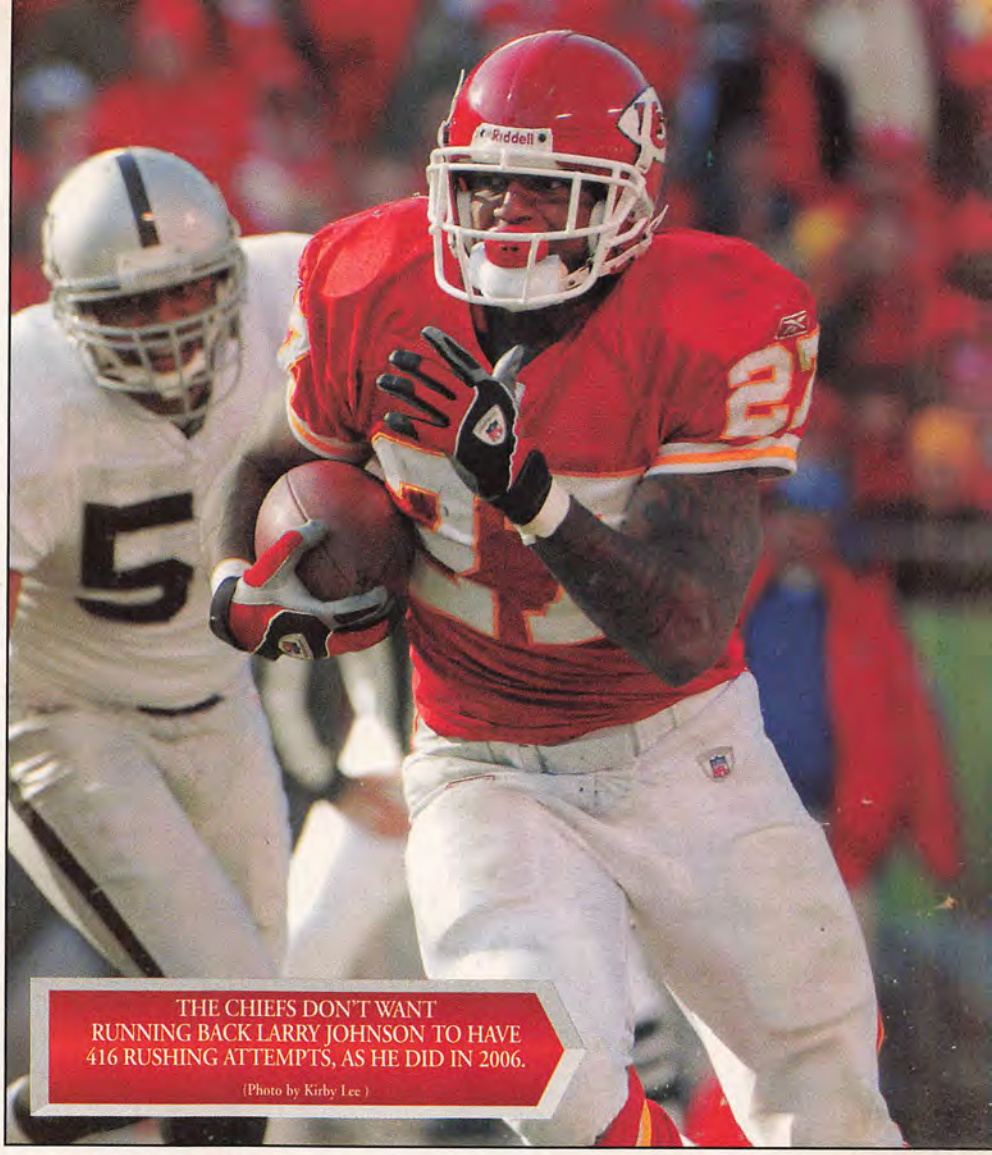
Fifth-round draft pick Kolby Smith (Louisville) could help here. Converted linebacker Boomer Grigsby will work at fullback, a position that never did get filled after Ronnie Cruz suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week Five.

RATING: 8

RECEIVERS

Tight end Tony Gonzalez (73 catches, 900 yards last year) continues to be the team's most productive receiver, which explains the lack of a deep game. Gonzalez, just re-signed to a long-term deal, is the ultimate possession receiver, but he's not the down-field threat he was earlier in this career. Eddie Kennison's best days also are behind him at age 34, but he's still the No. 1 wideout. First-round draft pick Dwayne Bowe of Louisiana State should get immediate playing time here at incumbent starter Samie Parker's spot. Second-year players Jeff Webb and Chris Hannon were workout warriors who couldn't get on the field Sundays, something they must do this year.

RATING: 7



THE CHIEFS DON'T WANT RUNNING BACK LARRY JOHNSON TO HAVE 416 RUSHING ATTEMPTS, AS HE DID IN 2006.

(Photo by Kirby Lee)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The team's rock-solid foundation as recently as 2005 is now a major concern after the retirements of Roaf before the '06 season and Shields after it. Veteran center Casey Wiegmann staved off a further erosion by electing to play again at age 34. Pro Bowl left guard Brian Waters is now the cornerstone. New arrival Damion McIntosh is a veteran at left tackle who should be an upgrade over departed Jordan Black as Roaf's replacement. John Welbourn, a former guard at Philadelphia who was misused at tackle in Kansas City, will move back to right guard in Shields' spot. Chris Terry was supposed to be the right tackle, but off-season legal problems put his future here in jeopardy. Chris Bober is the only backup with any experience.

RATING: 6

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

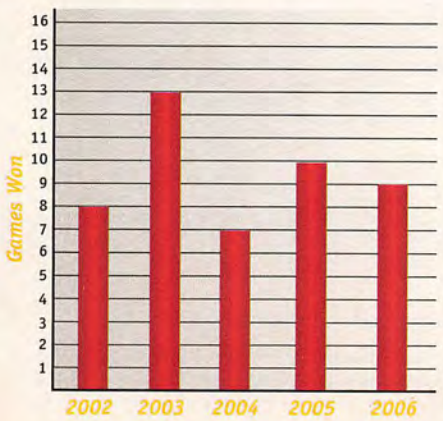
Defensive right end Jared Allen, Kansas City's most effective pass rusher (27 sacks in three seasons) began the off-season demanding a trade after not getting the contract offer he wanted as a restricted free agent. Things only got worse after learning he would be suspended for the first four games of 2007 after a second DUI conviction. Left end Tamba Hali was solid as a rookie starter (eight sacks, six forced fumbles). Incumbent interior tackles Ron Edwards and James Reed are gap-pluggers who contribute in run defense (No. 18 overall), but provide little pocket pressure. New addition Alfonso Boone (formerly of the Bears) will likely take a starting spot and improve both rush defense and pass pressure. Second- and third-round draft picks Turk McBride and Tank Tyler could be playing here soon, especially given McBride's ability to play inside and out. Versatile backup Jimmy Wilkerson could be a factor at right end during Allen's suspension. Linebacker Kendrell Bell also could get a look at the vacant spot.

RATING: 6

LINEBACKERS

Two of the Chiefs' major free-agent acquisitions came here. Donnie Edwards, a playmaker the Chiefs should never have let escape when he joined San Diego after the 2001 season, has returned at the right outside linebacker position manned with limited success by Bell the past two years. At age 34, Edwards remains capable of making more plays than the Chiefs got from Bell. Middle linebacker Napoleon Harris was an effective Cover 2 line-

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2006*

Chiefs Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
47	Allan, Michael (TE)	6-6	254	R	Whitworth	0/0	D7 07	D7 KC 07	Seventh-round draft pick from D-III school wasn't overwhelmed in all-star camps.
82	Bowe, Dwayne	6-2	221	R	Louisiana State	0/0	D1 07	D1 KC 07	Blocking skills and over-middle toughness make him a prospective starter.
89	*Dunn, Jason (TE)	6-6	274	11	Eastern Kentucky	15/5	FA 00	D2 PHA 96	Blocking skills make him important contributor on a protection unit needing help.
85	Gardner, Rod	6-2	219	7	Clemson	14/0	FA 06	D1 WSH 01	Made nothing of a prime opportunity with only two catches last year.
88	**Gonzalez, Tony (TE)**	**6-5**	**251**	**11**	**California**	**15/15**	**D1 97**	**D1 KC 97**	**70-plus catch seasons in seven of past eight years; still the best hands on team.**
81	Hannon, Chris	6-3	205	1	Tennessee	0/0	FA 06	OFA KC 06	Showed great promise running scout squad routes, but not enough to make game-day roster.
87	**Kennison, Eddie**	**6-1**	**201**	**12**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**FA 01**	**D1 STL 96**	**Saw string of two 1,000-yard seasons broken last year, still averaged 16 yards a catch.**
18	**Parker, Samie**	**5-11**	**190**	**4**	**Oregon**	**16/15**	**D4 04**	**D4 KC 04**	**41 catches last year was career high, but frequent drops kept that number down.**
80	Webb, Jeff	6-2	211	2	San Diego State	10/0	D6 06	D6 KC 06	Edwards says vet defenders couldn't cover him in practice; we'll have to take his word.
84	**Wilson, Kris (TE)**	**6-2**	**251**	**4**	**Pittsburgh**	**16/10**	**D2 04**	**D2 KC 04**	**Blocking/receiving abilities allowed him to fill big hole at H-back/fullback.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
67	Bober, Chris (C/T)	6-5	310	8	Nebraska-Omaha	16/2	UFA,NYG 04	OFA NYG 00	Key experienced backup with ability to play guard or center.
77	**McIntosh, Damion (T)**	**6-4**	**320**	**8**	**Kansas State**	**13/13**	**UFA,MIA 07**	**D3 SD 00**	**Veteran ex-Charger/Dolphin starter returns to familiar AFC West.**
64	Niswanger, Rudy (C)	6-5	301	2	Louisiana State	4/0	OFA 06	OFA KC 06	Undrafted player impressed coaches as rookie reserve, could win backup spot.
79	*Sampson, Kevin (T)	6-4	312	4	Syracuse	6/6	D7 04	D7 KC 04	Long history of injuries continues to limit his career.
61	Stallings, Tre'	6-3	315	2	Mississippi	0/0	D6 06	D6 KC 06	Has chance to make leap from 53-man roster to game-day 45.
71	*Svitek, Will (T)	6-5	300	3	Stanford	2/0	D6 05	D6 KC 05	Hard-nosed attitude caught attention of coaches, gives him a shot.
65	Taylor, Herbert (G/T)	6-3	295	R	Texas Christian	0/0	D6 07	D6 KC 07	Sixth-round draft pick can play guard, but will get first look at right tackle.
60	**Terry, Chris (T)**	**6-5**	**295**	**8**	**Georgia**	**7/0**	**FA 06**	**D2 CARO 99**	**Projected starter again raised concerns with yet another off-field problem.**
54	**Waters, Brian (G)**	**6-3**	**320**	**8**	**North Texas**	**14/14**	**FA 00**	**OFA DALL 99**	**Three-time Pro Bowler must now assume leadership mantle on decimated line.**
76	**Welbourn, John (G)**	**6-5**	**310**	**9**	**California**	**9/4**	**T,PHA 04**	**D4 PHA 99**	**Will return to natural guard position after battling to fill empty tackle holes.**
62	**Wiegmann, Casey (C)**	**6-2**	**285**	**12**	**Iowa**	**16/16**	**UFA,CHI 01**	**OFA IND 96**	**Unheralded center caused off-season concern with retirement speculation.**
RUNNING BACKS									
26	Bennett, Michael	5-9	207	7	Wisconsin	11/0	T,NO 06	D1 MINN 01	Ongoing hamstring problems meant backup often wasn't there when LJ needed him.
46	Grigsby, Boomer (FB)	5-11	249	3	Illinois State	15/0	D5 05	D5 KC 05	Highly decorated small-college linebacker will try to fill void at fullback.
31	*Holmes, Priest	5-9	213	11	Texas	0/0	UFA,BLT 01	OFA BLT 97	Despite year-and-half of inactivity, can't bring himself to say it's over.
27	**Johnson, Larry**	**6-1**	**230**	**5**	**Penn State**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 KC 03**	**Will try to do more on fewer carries after 416-tote campaign drained him.**
39	Ross, Derrick	5-10	226	2	Tarleton State	7/0	OFA 06	OFA KC 06	Coming off productive European spring, will battle rookie Smith for No. 3 running back spot.
34	Smith, Kolby	5-11	219	R	Louisville	0/0	D5 07	D5 KC 07	Effective replacement at Louisville has chance to be the same with Chiefs.
QUARTERBACKS									
12	Croyle, Brodie	6-2	206	1	Alabama	2/0	D3 06	D3 KC 06	Throwing two INTs vs. Pittsburgh in only real rookie action wasn't the way to start.
10	Green, Trent	6-3	217	13	Indiana	8/8	T,STL 01	D8 SD 93	Veteran wasn't the same after severe concussion; spent off-season awaiting trade.
11	**Huard, Damon**	**6-3**	**218**	**11**	**Washington**	**10/8**	**FA 04**	**OFA CIN 96**	**Posted 98.0 passer rating and 5-3 record in eight games as replacement starter.**
7	Printers, Casey	6-2	222	1	Florida A&M	0/0	FA 06	FA KC 06	Former CFL star has a place here as No. 3 guy.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
69	**Allen, Jared (E)**	**6-6**	**270**	**4**	**Idaho State**	**16/16**	**D4 04**	**D4 KC 04**	**How will he come back after 4-game suspension and off-season of discontent?**
70	**Boone, Alfonso (T)**	**6-3**	**305**	**7**	**Mt. San Antonio JC**	**12/4**	**UFA,CHI 07**	**D7 DET 00**	**Former Bears run-stuffer should be enough of an upgrade to become starter.**
95	**Edwards, Ron (T)**	**6-3**	**315**	**7**	**Texas A&M**	**16/16**	**UFA,BUFF 06**	**D3 BUFF 01**	**Incumbent starter played well enough to get new contract.**
91	**Hali, Tamba (E)**	**6-3**	**275**	**2**	**Penn State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 KC 06**	**Size issues didn't keep him out of opposing backfields in rookie season.**
90	McBride, Turk (E)	6-2	278	R	Tennessee	0/0	D2 07	D2 KC 07	Ability to play inside and out gives him a role on a team needing help at both.
72	Murphy, Montez (E)	6-6	256	1	Baylor	1/0	FA 07	OFA KC 06	Practice-squadder was on active roster for one game.
92	Reed, James (T)	6-0	286	7	Iowa State	15/15	FA 06	D7 NYJ 01	Former Jets starter is an Edwards favorite who could become Chiefs starter.
93	Tyler, Tank (T)	6-2	306	R	North Carolina State	0/0	D3 07	D3 KC 07	Should move immediately into tackle rotation as a rookie.
96	Wilkerson, Jimmy (E)	6-2	290	5	Oklahoma	13/1	D6 03	D6 KC 03	Inside/outside player has pass rush upside that could make him Allen's fill-in.
LINEBACKERS									
99	Bell, Kendrell (O)	6-1	245	7	Georgia	16/14	UFA,PITT 05	D2 PITT 01	On roster bubble after two disappointing seasons in Kansas City.
59	**Edwards, Donnie (O)**	**6-2**	**224**	**12**	**UCLA**	**16/16**	**UFA,SD 07**	**D4 KC 96**	**Chiefs never did effectively replace him after his departure in '02.**
97	Fox, Keyaron (O)	6-3	235	4	Georgia Tech	16/4	D3 04	D3 KC 04	Promising youngster had chance to grab starting spot and didn't take advantage.
53	Griffin, Kris (O)	6-3	240	3	Indiana (Pa.)	16/0	OFA 05	OFA KC 05	Special teams contributor needs to find role in regular defense.
50	**Harris, Napoleon (M)**	**6-2**	**253**	**6**	**Northwestern**	**14/14**	**UFA,MINN 07**	**D1 OAK 02**	**Coverage abilities essential for Cover 2 MLB made him prime free-agent acquisition.**
56	**Johnson, Derrick (O)**	**6-3**	**242**	**3**	**Texas**	**13/12**	**D1 05**	**D1 KC 05**	**Still-developing prospect had 4.5 sacks in only 13 games of second season.**
52	Kershaw, William (O)	6-3	240	1	Maryland	1/0	FA 06	OFA KC 06	Season-longer practice squadder played in finale and playoff game on special teams.
55	*Scanlon, Rich (M)	6-2	249	4	Syracuse	9/0	FA 04	OFA KC 04	Key special teamer; coverage units weren't as effective when he was down.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
38	Bragg, Michael (CB)	6-1	190	1	Texas A&M-Kingsville	4/0	FA 06	OFA NYG 05	Practice-squad member saw action in four games on special teams.
24	**Law, Ty (CB)**	**5-11**	**200**	**13**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D1 NE 95**	**Weaker supporting cast in K.C. affected his production (four picks), but he upgraded this defense.**
45	Maxey, Marcus (CB)	6-0	192	2	Miami	3/0	W,CHI 06	D5 KC 06	Played special teams in one game each for both Chiefs ands Bears.
47	McGraw, Jon (S)	6-3	208	6	Kansas State	16/2	UFA,DET 07	D2 NYJ 02	Former Jets starter will back up and tutor second-year starters ahead of him.
41	Norton, Zach (CB)	5-11	185	3	Cincinnati	0/0	FA 07	OFA BLT 04	Former Raven seeks backup role in secondary lacking depth.
44	**Page, Jarrad (S)**	**6-0**	**225**	**2**	**UCLA**	**16/2**	**D7 06**	**D7 KC 06**	**Seventh-round pick was surprise of camp and eventually won starting free safety spot with three picks.**
49	**Pollard, Bernard (S)**	**6-1**	**224**	**2**	**Purdue**	**16/0**	**D2 06**	**D2 KC 06**	**Hard-hitter expected to become starting strong safety after playing extensively as rookie.**
20	Sapp, Benny (CB)	5-9	190	4	Northern Iowa	11/0	OFA 04	OFA KC 04	Pass rushing skills make him a threat in nickel defenses.
23	**Surtain, Patrick (CB)**	**5-11**	**195**	**10**	**Southern Mississippi**	**16/16**	**T,MIA 05**	**D2 MIA 98**	**Only one pick last year was his lowest total after averaging five annually in previous four.**
25	Wesley, Greg (S)	6-2	206	8	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	14/14	D3 00	D3 KC 00	Long-time starter went on trade block after development of young safeties.
SPECIALISTS									
2	Colquitt, Dustin (P)	6-3	210	3	Tennessee	16/0	D3 05	D3 KC 05	Shook off rookie jitters to become team's best punter in several generations.
51	*Darche, J.P. (LS)	6-0	242	8	McGill	1/0	UFA,SEA 07	OFA SEA 00	Veteran long snapper replaces one of league's best in Kendall Gammon.
8	Medlock, Justin (K)	5-11	201	R	UCLA	0/0	D5 07	D5 KC 07	Fifth-round draft choice will get every chance to unseat incumbent Tynes.
1	Tynes, Lawrence (K)	6-1	202	4	Troy State	16/0	FA 04	OFA KC 01	This is first time Tynes' job in serious jeopardy.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; FFA=Franchise Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Brad Ekwerekwu (Missouri), Maurice Price (Charleston Southern), Ean Randolph (South Florida), Titus Ryan (Concordia); TEs Wes Murphy (Arkansas), Keith Willis (1, Virginia Tech); OTs George Batiste (Southern Mississippi), James Newby (North Carolina State), Ramiro Pruneda (None); OG Rob Hunt (1, North Dakota State); QBs Omar Jacobs (1, Bowling Green), Jeff Terrell (Princeton); RB Marcus O'Keith (California); FB Greg Hanoian (1, Syracuse); DEs Chris Harris (Alabama), Michael Heard (Mississippi State); DTs Stanley Doughty (South Carolina), Matt McGlothlin (Tennessee); LBs Brian Crum (Florida), Nick Reid (1, Kansas), Timi Wusu (1, Stanford); CBs Tyron Brackenridge (Washington State), Dimitri Patterson (1, Tuskegee), Justin Phinisee (1, Oregon); Ss Robb Butler (1, Robert Morris), Marlon Fair (Hampton); PK Aaron Barret (New Mexico)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Whether the undersized Brodie Croyle, an effective quarterback when healthy as a collegian at Alabama, can be a dependable player at the NFL level. With everyone in the AFC West developing a young quarterback, the Chiefs want Croyle to be their guy for the future.

*The transition in the offensive line. Once a team strength, this revamped unit now faces serious questions about its ability to pass protect and open holes for Larry Johnson.

*Improved pass rush. The Chiefs got better edge pressure when Hali joined Allen as pincher ends last year, but the up-the-middle push was still missing. Might Boone or the two rookies help here, and what happens during Allen's four-game suspension?

ON THE HOT SEAT

Brodie Croyle

Herman Edwards can't yet say with certainty that second-year player Brodie Croyle can become the Chiefs' quarterback for the long-term future.

But he's going to find out one way or another, and soon.

No one in Kansas City can predict whether the former Alabama quarterback will be the starter in Week One, Eight or ever. Edwards only knows that Croyle will be given every opportunity in training camp and the preseason to demonstrate his readiness.

"You've got to give people an opportunity," Edwards said. "Who knew I could be a head coach until I got an opportunity? Someone's got to give you a chance. Maybe it's not going to work out. He might do good; he might not do good. But we're going to find out."

Croyle's first preseason was limited by an injury — a career-long problem. He played sparingly even after Trent Green went down in the season opener and he was Damon Huard's backup. In his only limited action, he threw two interceptions in seven attempts during mop-up time of a loss to Pittsburgh. His three completions went for only 23 yards — hardly up to his standards at Alabama where he was the career passing yards leader.

backer in Oakland and Minnesota. His coverage skills should be an upgrade over the departed Kawika Mitchell. Left outside linebacker Derrick Johnson in two years has yet to be the difference maker he was in college, but the former first-round draft pick has been solid. Backups are thin here.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

The 2006 addition of Super Bowl veteran Ty Law did improve the pass defense (though only to 18th league-wide), but he was neither The Miracle Worker nor The Missing Piece. He did get four regular-season picks before adding his customary two against Peyton Manning in the playoff game, but few of his interceptions were difference-makers. As fellow big-name cornerback acquisition Patrick Surtain learned the previous year, it's hard to be a difference-maker in the secondary with Kansas City's woeful pass rush. Jarrad Page, a mere seventh-round pick in '06, made enough impact as a rookie that he replaced veteran Sammy Knight (ultimately released) as the starting strong safety. Fellow second-year player Bernard Pollard should do the same at free safety over Greg Wesley this year. Backups Lenny Walls and Bennie Sapp are just adequate in the nickel.

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Dustin Colquitt, in his second year, justified his 2005 third-round selection with a 39.3 net average that led the NFL and was the second-best mark in team history. He had 25 of 71 punts go 50-plus with 23 inside the 20s. Kicker Lawrence Tynes fell off slightly in converting 24 of 31 field-goal attempts with only 13-of-20 accuracy from more than 30 yards. His chip-shot miss (23 yards) in the playoff loss may have provided the impetus for the Chiefs to draft UCLA kicker Justin Medlock in the fifth round. Dante Hall fell out of the return picture when his jitterbugging return style failed to produce as in previous years and did not fit the Edwards' philosophy. Jeff Webb will get the first look as a replacement on kickoff returns, but only Eddie Kennison has much returning experience as a punt returner. Dependable long snapper Kendall Gammon has been replaced by former Seahawk Jean-Phillipe Darche.

RATING: 6.5

INTANGIBLES

None, really. Gone is the sense of urgency from just a year ago when the Chiefs wanted to win one for owner Lamar Hunt before his death, or for Roaf or Shields before their retirements. Not that those intangibles contributed much, anyway. The Chiefs are rebuilding, and rebuilding projects lack emotion. The sense among many Chiefs followers are that this in-transition team will be hard-pressed to break even.

RATING: Even

— Rick Dean

2006 RESULTS

Record: 9-8

Sep. 10	CINCINNATI	10-23
Sep. 17	at Denver (OT)	6- 9
Sep. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 1	SAN FRANCISCO	41- 0
Oct. 8	at Arizona	23-20
Oct. 15	at Pittsburgh	7-45
Oct. 22	SAN DIEGO	30-27
Oct. 29	SEATTLE	35-28
Nov. 5	at St. Louis	31-17
Nov. 12	at Miami	10-13
Nov. 19	OAKLAND	17-13
Nov. 23	DENVER	19-10
Dec. 3	at Cleveland (OT)	28-31
Dec. 10	BALTIMORE	10-20
Dec. 17	at San Diego	9-20
Dec. 23	at Oakland	20- 9
Dec. 31	JACKSONVILLE	35-30
Jan. 6	at Indianapolis	8-23

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	at Cleveland (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 16	MIAMI (Thu.)	7:00
Aug. 23	NEW ORLEANS (Thu.)	7:30
Aug. 30	at St. Louis (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	at Houston	12:00
Sep. 16	at Chicago	3:15
Sep. 23	MINNESOTA	12:00
Sep. 30	at San Diego	1:15
Oct. 7	JACKSONVILLE	12:00
Oct. 14	CINCINNATI	12:00
Oct. 21	at Oakland	1:05
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	GREEN BAY	12:00
Nov. 11	DENVER	12:00
Nov. 18	at Indianapolis	1:00
Nov. 25	OAKLAND	12:00
Dec. 2	SAN DIEGO	12:00
Dec. 9	at Denver	2:15
Dec. 16	TENNESSEE	12:00
Dec. 23	at Detroit	1:00
Dec. 30	at N.Y. Jets	8:15

OAKLAND RAIDERS

2006 RECORD: 2-14 | STADIUM: Networks Associates Coliseum, 63,132, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 3rd

AFC WEST | www.raiders.com

AT A GLANCE

1220 Harbor Bay Parkway
Alameda, CA 94502
(510) 864-5000

TRAINING CAMP:
Marriott; Napa, CA

COACH:
Lane Kiffin, 1st year with Raiders and as NFL head coach

DIRECTOR, FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Mark Jackson

SCOUTING COORDINATORS:
Jon Kingdon
Kent McCloughan

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Greg Knapp	Offensive coordinator	14	1
John DeFilippo	Quarterbacks	3	1
Tom Cable	Offensive line	2	1
James Cregg	Assistant offensive line	1	1
Tom Rathman	Running backs	11	1
Charles Coe	Receivers	1	1
Kelly Skipper	Tight ends	1	1
Sanjay Lal	Offensive quality control	1	1
Adam Henry	Offensive quality control	1	1
Rob Ryan	Defensive coordinator	10	4
Keith Millard	Defensive line	6	3
Don Johnson	Assistant defensive line	3	1
Don Martindale	Linebackers	4	4
Darren Perry	Secondary	6	1
Randy Hanson	Assistant secondary	5	1
Don Martin	Defensive assistant	10	10
George Martinez	Defensive quality control	2	2
Brian Schneider	Special teams	1	1
Curtis Fuller	ST quality control	1	1
Jeff Fish	Strength & Conditioning	6	4
Willie Brown	Squad development/DBs	24	24

Dawn of a New Day with Kiffin in Charge

Following the worst offensive showing in franchise history, coupled with shaky special teams but feeling secure with the NFL's third-ranked defense, Raiders owner Al Davis left his good unit intact and gutted everything else.

The retro hire of Art Shell was a one-year disaster, so Davis harkened back to 1998 and the hiring of then 34-year-old Jon Gruden. This time, his choice — 31-year-old Lane Kiffin — had even less experience.

Most of defensive coordinator Rob Ryan's staff remains intact, but the Raiders have revamped virtually everything else. They selected quarterback JaMarcus Russell with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, and dumped Randy Moss in the wake of a 2-14 season that stands as the low point in Davis' Hall of Fame career.

It has to get better because it can't get any worse.

COACHING

Kiffin hasn't called a play in a game situation, but early indications are he's light years ahead of the Shell-Tom Walsh offense in terms of being contemporary and functional.

Kiffin will call the plays, with former 49ers and Falcons offensive coordinator Greg Knapp assisting with game-planning and theory. Of huge importance is offensive line coach Tom Cable, who worked with Knapp in Atlanta and will change Oakland's blocking emphasis from man-to-man to zone and cut blocking.

Oakland's defensive staff underwent little change after performing far better than the final record indicated. Ryan could join his brother Rex as a head coaching candidate with another good year.

Special teams coach Brian Schneider was hired off the Air Force campus to upgrade a unit that has struggled for the better part of the last decade.

RATING: 6

QUARTERBACKS

Josh McCown was 10-12 as a starter in Arizona before signing with the Lions and watching Jon Kitna take every snap in 2006.

McCown, in the last year of his contract, is Kiffin's hand-picked caretaker until Russell, the top pick in the draft, is ready to take over and demonstrate the ability that has Davis comparing him to John Elway.

Andrew Walter, 2-6 as a starter last year and the quarterback of the future under Shell, is a dropback passer in an offense that wants movement from its quarterbacks.

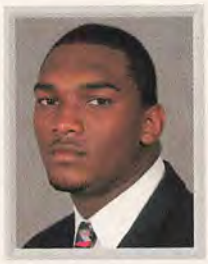
RATING: 6.5

RUNNING BACKS

LaMont Jordan has gained 1,479 yards in 23 games with the Raiders, missing nine due to

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
QB JaMarcus Russell



Barring unexpected success while Russell develops, the future of the Raiders should be on display at some point during the season. His ability to bond and learn from a rookie head coach will be crucial.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
G Cooper Carlisle, T Cornell Green, FB Justin Griffith, QB Josh McCown, C Jeremy Newberry, RB Dominic Rhodes, TE Tony Stewart, TE Fred Wakefield, WR Mike Williams

KEY LOSS:
WR Randy Moss (13/13)*
The general consensus among management is that Moss and his indifferent attitude had to go, prompting his trade to New England for a fourth-round pick. But Moss was a popular teammate, and one of Russell's strengths is throwing the deep pass.

OTHER LOSSES
T Brad Badger (7/0), QB Aaron Brooks (8/8), S Derrick Gibson (16/1), G Corey Hulsey (5/5), LB Grant Irons (2/1), DE Lance Johnstone (11/1), CB Tyrone Poole (12/2), QB Marques Tuiasosopo (2/0), T Langston Walker (16/16)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 8 offense, 11 defense, kicker, punter
* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

injury. To lighten the load, Dominic Rhodes was brought in from the Colts to share the job as the primary ground gainer.

To fit what Kiffin terms as their West Coast "hybrid" offense, fullback Justin Griffith, a blocker and pass catcher, was signed during free agency.

Although Justin Fargas gained a team and career-high 659 yards last season on 178 attempts, the additions of Rhodes and rookie draft pick Michael Bush of Louisville could make his situation precarious.

RATING: 6.5

RECEIVERS

Disgruntled Randy Moss was dumped for a fourth-round draft pick, but Jerry Porter, a non-factor in Shell's dog house last season, hopes to rejuvenate his career as the flanker in Kiffin's offense.

Ronald Curry, who caught a team-high 62 passes for 727 yards in an under-the-radar comeback from a pair of Achilles' tears, returns. Mike Williams, the No. 10 overall pick by Detroit who played for Kiffin at Southern Cal, will get a long look for considerable playing time. However, Williams didn't get off to a good start when he pulled a hamstring in his first minicamp practice.

After that, it's a dogfight that includes returnees Doug Gabriel, Alvis Whitted, Johnnie Morant and Carlos Francis, plus mercurial rookies Johnnie Lee Higgins and Johnathan Holland.

There's a glut of tight ends, but rookie Zach Miller, a second-round pick out of Arizona State, will be given every chance to seize the job with others filling in as role players.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A unit that surrendered a league-high 72 sacks and blocked for the 29th-ranked running attack did not undergo the personnel change many thought it would.

Instead, the Raiders radically changed their scheme and will invite competition and hope that tackle Robert Gallery and center Jake Grove, the first- and second-round picks in 2004, will thrive under Cable's philosophy of zone and cut blocking.

Gallery and veteran Barry Sims will compete for the job at left tackle, with one of them possibly winding up on the right side. Jeremy Newberry, the former 49ers Pro Bowler, hopes to hold up physically and challenge Grove at center.

Kevin Boothe, a sixth-round draft pick from Cornell, started 14 games at right guard last season and was a pleasant surprise. Paul McQuistan, a third-round pick last year, started at both right and left guard but could end up at tackle.

The Raiders signed former Denver guard Cooper Carlisle, who started each of the last two years, as an unrestricted free agent. Carlisle started all 16 games in 2006. Cornell Green, another former Bronco familiar with the blocking scheme, signed as well.

RATING: 6.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Defensive end Derrick Burgess has 27 sacks in 32 games as a Raider and has made two consecutive Pro Bowls. Tackle Warren Sapp had 10 sacks, his best season since 2002.

Following shoulder surgery the previous year, Sapp seemed to appreciate the ability to be a factor and played with passion despite Oakland's rough won-loss record. He then reported to spring minicamp having trimmed 34 pounds and weighing 285. The Raiders paid $17 million over four years to retain Terdell Sands, their best run-stopper on the defensive line. Those three, along with tackle Tommy Kelly, will get the bulk of the playing time. After that, it's up for grabs.

Tyler Brayton started 16 games and had no sacks last season, so the Raiders drafted Quentin Moses in the third round and Jay Richardson in the sixth. Holdover Kevin Huntley showed flashes of edge pressure and will compete.

Anttaj Hawthorne, who worked his way into the rotation late in 2007, could join the mix inside — particularly if Kelly plays more at end.

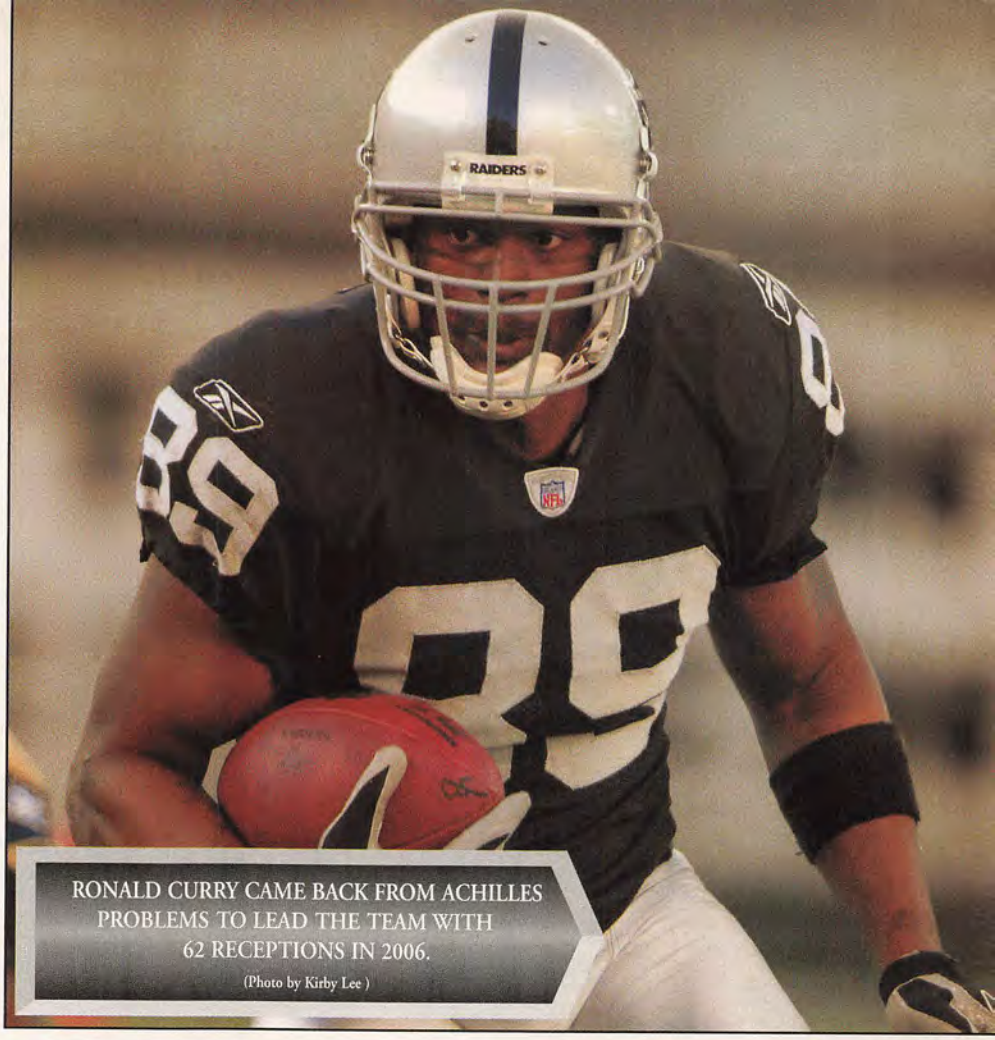
RATING: 8

LINEBACKERS

The Raiders drafted mainstays in the previous two drafts in middle linebacker Kirk Morrison (2005) and weak-side linebacker Thomas Howard (2006), two of the better selections they have made in recent years.

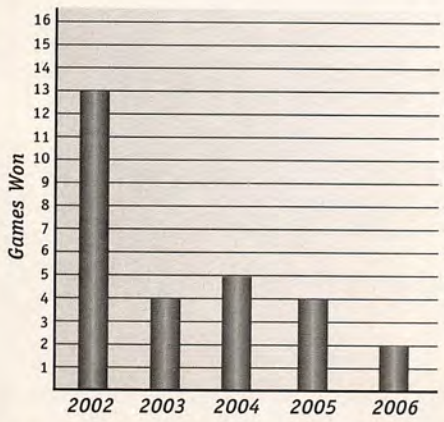
Morrison, who started at outside linebacker as a rookie, proved more stout in the middle than his build would indicate and gave the Raiders their best pass defense over the middle in years. Howard, among the rookie leaders in tackles, is the fastest linebacker the Raiders have had since returning to Oakland in 1995.

Those two, barring injury, will be on the field



RONALD CURRY CAME BACK FROM ACHILLES PROBLEMS TO LEAD THE TEAM WITH 62 RECEPTIONS IN 2006.
(Photo by Kirby Lee)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2002*

Raiders Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
88	Adkisson, James	6-5	230	2	South Carolina	4/0	FA 05	OFA CIN 03	Converted wide receiver was on roster, but not a factor in '06.
83	Anderson, Courtney (TE)	6-6	270	4	San Jose State	16/9	D7 04	D7 OAK 04	Despite 28 starts in three seasons, is fighting for his job.
13	Buchanon, Will	6-3	190	1	Southern Cal	2/0	FA 06	OFA OAK 06	Son of ex-NFL corner Willie Buchanon spent most of season on practice squad.
89	**Curry, Ronald (KR)**	**6-2**	**210**	**5**	**North Carolina**	**16/4**	**FA 02**	**D7 OAK 02**	**Recovery from two Achilles' tears was one of NFL's great comeback stories.**
82	*Francis, Carlos	5-10	190	4	Texas Tech	0/0	D4 04	D4 OAK 04	Recurring injury problems make Texas Tech sprinter a long shot to stick.
80	Gabriel, Doug	6-2	215	6	Central Florida	15/5	W,NE 06	D5 OAK 03	Set to start in '06, was traded to Patriots, returned in a waiver deal.
15	Higgins, Johnnie Lee	5-11	185	R	Texas-El Paso	0/0	D3 07	D3 OAK 07	Nicknamed "The Real Deal," will compete as receiver and return specialist.
18	Holland, Jonathan	6-1	195	R	Louisiana Tech	0/0	D7 07	D7 OAK 07	Best chance to make team is to make an impact on kick coverage.
85	Madsen, John (TE)	6-5	235	2	Utah	15/0	OFA 06	OFA OAK 06	Ex-wide receiver caught 11 passes for 146 yards as undrafted free agent.
45	**Miller, Zach (TE)**	**6-5**	**255**	**R**	**Arizona State**	**0/0**	**D2 07**	**D2 OAK 07**	**Third time in six years Raiders selected tight end in second round.**
19	Morant, Johnnie	6-4	220	4	Syracuse	11/2	D5 04	D5 OAK 04	Had big preseason in 2006, then took a spot on the bench.
81	***Porter, Jerry**	**6-2**	**220**	**8**	**West Virginia**	**4/0**	**D2 00**	**D2 OAK 00**	**New number and a new outlook after rebelling against Shell game.**
84	Stewart, Tony (TE)	6-5	260	7	Penn State	16/3	UFA,CIN 07	D5 PHA 01	Former Bengal does his best work when put in motion.
47	Wakefield, Fred (TE)	6-7	295	7	Illinois	16/9	UFA,ARIZ 07	OFA ARIZ 01	A converted tackle who could be useful in short-yardage situations.
87	*Whitted, Alvis	6-0	185	10	North Carolina State	14/13	FA 02	D7 JAX 98	Miscast as a starter last season; a solid team guy who can still run.
17	Williams, Mike	6-5	230	3	Southern Cal	8/2	T,DET 07	D1 DET 05	Recruited by Lane Kiffin at Southern Cal; hopes to jump-start his career.
86	Williams, Randal (TE)	6-3	235	7	New Hampshire	16/9	FA 05	OFA JAX 01	Had career-high 28 receptions, but too many dropped passes.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
67	Boothe, Kevin (G)	6-5	315	2	Cornell	16/14	D6 06	D6 OAK 06	Sixth-round draft pick pocketed an extra $275,000 in performance-based pay.
66	**Carlisle, Cooper (G)**	**6-5**	**295**	**8**	**Florida**	**16/16**	**UFA,DEN 07**	**D4 DEN 00**	**A starter in Denver; he has experience in zone blocking system.**
69	*Claxton, Ben (G)	6-2	300	3	Mississippi	0/0	W,ATL 07	D5 DEN 03	Comes from Atlanta, where they used Raiders' new style of blocking.
76	**Gallery, Robert (T)**	**6-7**	**325**	**4**	**Iowa**	**10/10**	**D1 04**	**D1 OAK 04**	**Recent medical history includes broken leg, groin strain, dislocated elbow.**
74	Green, Cornell (T)	6-6	315	7	Central Florida	15/0	UFA,TB 07	OFA ATL 99	Eight-year veteran has been with Falcons, Jets, Broncos and Bucs.
64	**Grove, Jake (C)**	**6-4**	**300**	**4**	**Virginia Tech**	**16/16**	**D2 04**	**D2 OAK 04**	**Only returning lineman to start all 16 games last season.**
75	Henderson, Mario (T)	6-7	300	R	Florida State	0/0	D3 07	D3 OAK 07	Raiders liked that he played his best against top-flight competition.
79	**McQuistan, Paul (T)**	**6-6**	**315**	**2**	**Weber State**	**15/6**	**D3 06**	**D3 OAK 06**	**Opened season as a starting right guard, but could return to tackle.**
61	Morris, Chris (C)	6-4	305	1	Michigan State	5/0	FA 06	D7 OAK 06	Was on roster for five games after being promoted from practice squad.
60	*Newberry, Jeremy (C)	6-5	313	10	California	0/0	UFA,SF 07	D2 SF 98	Former Pro Bowler attempting comeback; hasn't played since Nov. 27, 2005
65	**Sims, Barry (T/G)**	**6-5**	**300**	**9**	**Utah**	**11/8**	**FA 99**	**FA OAK 99**	**Moved to guard and then benched by Shell; may start for Kiffin at tackle.**
78	Slaughter, Chad (T)	6-8	340	7	Alcorn State	15/6	FA 02	OFA DALL 00	Erstwhile reserve can back up on both left and right side.
62	*Treu, Adam (C/LS)	6-5	300	11	Nebraska	11/0	D3 97	D3 OAK 97	Played nine seasons without missing a game; missed five in 2006.
63	Wilson, Mark (T)	6-7	320	2	California	0/0	FA 07	D5 WSH 04	Local Cal product played two games for Washington in 2004.
RUNNING BACKS									
43	Bush, Michael	6-1	245	R	Louisville	0/0	D4 07	D4 OAK 07	Louisville back could be fourth-round bargain when broken leg heals.
32	Crockett, Zack (FB)	6-2	240	13	Florida State	16/10	UFA,JAX 99	D3 IND 95	Fighting for roster spot after playing in Raiders' last 112 games.
20	Echemandu, Adimchinobe	5-10	225	4	California	4/0	FA 07	D7 CLV 04	Played in four games last season, but never in the backfield.
25	Fargas, Justin	6-1	220	5	Southern Cal	16/6	D3 03	D3 OAK 03	Broke out for 659 yards rushing after 357 in first three seasons.
36	**Griffith, Justin (FB)**	**6-0**	**235**	**4**	**Mississippi State**	**16/11**	**UFA,ATL 07**	**D4 ATL 03**	**Expected to start, and could lead running backs in receiving.**
34	***Jordan, LaMont**	**5-10**	**230**	**7**	**Maryland**	**9/8**	**UFA,NYJ 05**	**D2 NYJ 01**	**Still awaits his first rushing touchdown on road in a Raiders uniform.**
42	Lee, ReShard	5-10	220	4	Middle Tennessee State	16/3	FA 06	OFA DALL 03	Led all Raiders running backs in receiving with 20 receptions.
46	O'Neal, Oren (FB)	5-11	245	R	Arkansas State	0/0	D6 07	D6 OAK 07	Only thing in common with O.J. is his full name — Orenthal James.
33	Rhodes, Dominic	5-9	203	7	Midwestern State	16/16	UFA,OAK 07	OFA IND 01	Averaged 3.4 yards per carry for Colts in regular season, 4.9 in post-season.
QUARTERBACKS									
10	Booty, Josh	6-2	220	3	Louisiana State	0/0	FA 07	D6 SEA 01	Ex-Florida Marlins baseball player last played for Browns in 2003.
12	**McCown, Josh**	**6-4**	**215**	**6**	**Sam Houston State**	**2/0**	**T,DET 07**	**D3 ARIZ 02**	**Wants to get as many quality starts as possible until Russell takes over.**
2	Russell, JaMarcus	6-6	255	R	Louisiana State	0/0	D1 07	D1 OAK 07	Last quarterback the Raiders took No. 1 overall was Roman Gabriel in 1962.
16	Walter, Andrew	6-6	230	3	Arizona State	12/8	D3 05	D3 OAK 05	Ill-conceived, poorly executed scheme doomed first chance as starter.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
91	Brayton, Tyler (E)	6-6	280	5	Colorado	16/15	D1 03	D1 OAK 03	Sackless starter praised by defensive coaches for his non-stop effort.
56	**Burgess, Derrick (E)**	**6-2**	**260**	**7**	**Mississippi**	**16/16**	**UFA,PHA 05**	**D3 PHA 01**	**Free-agent gamble has become one of NFL's premier pass rushers.**
48	Clemons, Chris	6-3	240	4	Georgia	0/0	FA 07	OFA WSH 03	Had five sacks as part-timer with Redskins from 2003-2006.
77	Hawthorne, Anttaj (T)	6-3	310	2	Wisconsin	16/0	FA 05	D6 OAK 05	Got more time in tackle rotation as the season went on.
94	**Huntley, Kevin (E)**	**6-7**	**270**	**2**	**Kansas State**	**5/0**	**FA 06**	**OFA OAK 05**	**Coaches like his height, ability to put pressure on the passer.**
93	Kelly, Tommy (T)	6-6	300	4	Mississippi State	16/16	OFA 04	OFA OAK 04	Has shown promise at both tackle and end, but hasn't settled in at either.
92	McNeal, Bryant (E)	6-4	250	2	Clemson	0/0	FA 07	D4 DEN 03	Missed final cut on 53-man roster; spent season on practice squad.
96	Moses, Quentin (E)	6-5	260	R	Georgia	0/0	D3 07	D3 OAK 07	After subpar senior year, has legitimate chance to start at right end.
98	Richardson, Jay (E)	6-6	280	R	Ohio State	0/	D5 07	D5 OAK 07	An excellent athlete who could block kicks, deflect pass attempts.
90	**Sands, Terdell (NT)**	**6-7**	**335**	**5**	**Tennessee-Chattanooga**	**16/1**	**W,GB 03**	**D7 KC 01**	**Signed to four-year, $17 million deal before free agency began.**
99	**Sapp, Warren (T)**	**6-2**	**285**	**12**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**UFA,TB 04**	**D1 TB 96**	**After a productive 10-sack season, came in at a svelte 285 pounds — a 34-pound loss according to Kiffin.**
95	Shaw, Josh (T)	6-3	305	3	Michigan State	0/0	FA 07	D5 SF 02	Ex-49er, Dolphin has never played more than five games in a season.
LINEBACKERS									
57	Brown, Ricky (O)	6-2	235	2	Boston College	13/0	FA 06	OFA OAK 06	Practice-squad player elevated and saw action on special teams.
44	*Campbell, Kurt	6-1	240	3	Albany State (N.Y.)	0/0	FA 07	D7 GB 05	Will try to make an impact on special teams.
50	Ekejiuba, Isaiah (O)	6-4	240	3	Virginia	12/0	FA 05	OFA ARZ 05	Too raw to play on defense, but a wedge-buster supreme.
53	**Howard, Thomas (O)**	**6-3**	**240**	**2**	**Texas-El Paso**	**16/15**	**D2 06**	**D2 OAK 06**	**Second-round pick was too good to take off field at end of '06.**
52	**Morrison, Kirk (M)**	**6-2**	**240**	**3**	**San Diego State**	**16/16**	**D3 05**	**D3 OAK 05**	**Made successful conversion from outside to middle last season.**
55	Thomas, Robert (M)	6-0	235	6	UCLA	16/0	FA 06	D1 STL 02	Excellent goal-line defender who can sub at all three linebacker spots.
54	**Williams, Sam (O)**	**6-5**	**260**	**5**	**Fresno State**	**15/13**	**D3 03**	**D3 OAK 03**	**Injury-prone prospect played in 15 games after missing 38 of first 48.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
21	**Asomugha, Nnamdi (CB)**	**6-2**	**210**	**5**	**California**	**15/15**	**D1 03**	**D1 OAK 03**	**Had eight picks in breakout season after zero in first 48 games.**
29	*Bing, Darnell	6-2	230	2	Southern Cal	0/0	D4 06	D4 OAK 06	Drafted as a weak-side linebacker, he's back to college position of strong safety.
35	Bowie, John (CB)	5-11	190	R	Cincinnati	0/0	D4 07	D4 OAK 07	Fourth-round pick will be known as man traded for Randy Moss.
23	Carr, Chris (CB)	5-10	180	3	Boise State	16/0	OFA 05	OFA OAK 05	100-yard interception return for touchdown one of the few highlights of season.
40	Cooper, Jarrod (S)	6-1	215	7	Kansas State	16/0	W,CAR0 04	D5 CAR0 01	Hard-hitting veteran has been mainstay of special teams.
31	Eugene, Hiram (S)	6-2	200	1	Louisiana Tech	0/0	FA 06	OFA OAK 05	Hanging on after being shuttled between practice squad and 53-man roster.
39	Frampton, Eric (S)	5-11	205	R	Washington State	0/0	D5 07	D5 OAK 07	Kiffin liked what he saw when his Southern Cal offense faced Washington State.
24	**Huff, Michael (S)**	**6-1**	**205**	**2**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 OAK 06**	**Did not have a hand in a turnover, but turned in a solid rookie season.**
37	Johnson, Chris (CB)	6-0	200	4	Louisville	0/0	FA 07	D7 GB 03	Had nine tackles in one career start for St. Louis in 2005.
38	Richard, Kris (CB)	5-11	190	4	Southern Cal	0/0	FA 07	D3 SEA 02	Third-round pick by Seahawks in '02 has yet to find a steady job.
26	Routt, Stanford (CB)	6-1	195	3	Houston	16/2	D2 05	S2 OAK 05	More comfortable outside, but size and ability suggest role as slot corner.
30	**Schweigert, Stuart (S)**	**6-2**	**210**	**4**	**Purdue**	**16/16**	**D3 04**	**D3 OAK 04**	**Defensive leader must have more turnovers or Huff will move over.**
22	Starks, Duane (CB)	5-10	175	10	Miami	5/0	FA 06	D1 BLT 98	Heady veteran's return a surprise after having no role in 2006.
28	Ward, B.J. (S)	6-3	210	2	Florida State	0/0	FA 07	OFA BLT 05	A kick-blocking specialist in college, nickname was 'Super Freak.'
27	**Washington, Fabian (CB)**	**5-11**	**185**	**3**	**Nebraska**	**14/14**	**D1 05**	**D1 OAK 05**	**If rate of improvement continues, he could be in Pro Bowl this year.**
SPECIALISTS									
11	Janikowski, Sebastian (K)	6-2	250	8	Florida State	16/0	D1 00	D1 OAK 00	Has stayed out of trouble of late, but hasn't delivered on first-round gamble.
9	Lechler, Shane (P)	6-2	225	8	Texas A&M	16/0	D5 00	D5 OAK 00	League's best long-distance punter found the end zone too many times last season.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Chris McFoy (Southern Cal), Rich Parson (Maryland), Lauren Williams (Liberty); TE/FB Tony Jackson (1, Iowa); OT Eddie Keele (Brigham Young); QB Jeff Otis (1, Columbia); DE Dave Tollefson (1, Northwest Missouri State); DT Larry Brown (Oklahoma State); LBs Ricardo Dickerson (Maryland), Charlton Keith (1, Kansas), J.J. Milan (Nevada), Kyle Shotwell (Cal Poly-SLO); CBs Marquise Cole (Northwestern), Kenny Patton (Hawaii), Levonne Rowan (1, Wisconsin); LS Jon Condo (1, Maryland)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*Offensive line play. With minimal changes in terms of personnel up front, the Raiders are counting on Tom Cable's expertise to repair the worst season in the history of a proud franchise up front. The Raiders were 29th in rushing and gave up 72 sacks.

*Stopping the run. The Raiders were ranked No. 3 in terms of yards allowed, but were No. 25 against the run. Nine times Oakland gave up more than 100 yards to a running back, including twice each by division foes LaDainian Tomlinson and Larry Johnson.

*A good start. With an NFL-worst 15-49 record over the past four years, an immediate tailspin could mean big trouble with a 31-year-old head coach. Fortunately for the Raiders, two of their first three games are at home against Detroit and Cleveland.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Robert Gallery

Compared with talents such as Orlando Pace, Tony Boselli and Jonathan Ogden as the No. 2 overall pick in 2004, Robert Gallery's name is now being mentioned with that of draft bust Tony Mandarich.

In his defense, Gallery started at guard, then went to right tackle before playing for the first time at left tackle last season. He had different line coaches in each of his first two seasons (Aaron Kromer, Jim Colletto) before getting three-way instruction last season from Shell, Irv Eatman and Jackie Slater.

Making matters worse, Gallery ended the 2005 season with a broken leg and had a lingering groin injury as well as a dislocated elbow last season.

Tom Cable is the Raiders' new line coach. He will stress zone blocking and cut blocking, a scheme Kiffin hopes will help Gallery capitalize on his intelligence and agility. Angular at 6-7 and not a wide body, Oakland's new scheme represents a chance for Gallery to jump-start his career and end the talk of being a bust.

Gallery is playing on both the left and right sides, but was promised a chance to win the job as the left tackle.

most of the time. Strong-side linebacker Sam Williams stayed relatively healthy last season for the first time. The Raiders re-signed veteran Robert Thomas, who was excellent in goal-line and short-yardage situations.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

Nnamdi Asomugha, a first-round pick in 2003, came out of nowhere with eight interceptions after not getting a single interception in three seasons. Entering a void year in his contract, Asomugha can make himself a rich man with a duplicate performance, and his character and work ethic suggest it can happen. Fabian Washington, a first-round pick in 2005, made great strides in his second season and gives Oakland one of the better cornerback duos in the NFL.

Strong safety Michael Huff, the No. 7 overall pick last season, did not have a hand in a single turnover, but was solid in coverage against tight ends despite his relatively slight build. Free safety Stuart Schweigert is a team leader, but also had zero interceptions.

Return specialist Chris Carr was a down-and-distance back who had a 100-yard interception return for a touchdown against Pittsburgh. Rookie corner John Bowie and rookie safety Eric Frampton join the mix. Bowie has the top-end speed the Raiders love, while Frampton is a playmaker without the measurables Oakland usually covets.

Darnell Bing, a fourth-round pick in 2006 that spent the year on injured reserve, has returned to safety from the linebacker spot he was switched to as a rookie.

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Shane Lechler, who has the highest punting average in NFL history, had too many touchbacks (19), but remains one of the NFL's best. Kicker Sebastian Janikowski converts 90.7 percent of his career field-goal attempts from 39 yards and in, but just 62.4 percent from 40 yards and beyond.

Schneider is the latest Raiders' special teams coach, hoping to create coverage schemes to capitalize on the strong legs of Lechler and Janikowski. Kiffin has put the Raiders on notice that no job is safe in this area other than the kickers. Carr is a fearless return specialist who faces a challenge from Higgins, the rookie draft pick.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

The Shell regime was hugely unpopular by midseason last season, and the sweeping out of his offensive staff, with Kiffin taking charge, has been well-received. Early indications are that Kiffin may be the most independent Raiders head coach since Jon Gruden arrived in 1995. The exit of Randy Moss should only help.

RATING: Plus 2

— Jerry MacDonald

2006 RESULTS

Record: 2-14

Sep. 11	SAN DIEGO	0-27
Sep. 17	at Baltimore	6-28
Sep. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 1	CLEVELAND	21-24
Oct. 8	at San Francisco	20-34
Oct. 15	at Denver	3-13
Oct. 22	ARIZONA	22- 9
Oct. 29	PITTSBURGH	20-13
Nov. 6	at Seattle	0-16
Nov. 12	DENVER	13-17
Nov. 19	at Kansas City	13-17
Nov. 26	at San Diego	14-21
Dec. 3	HOUSTON	14-23
Dec. 10	at Cincinnati	10-27
Dec. 17	ST. LOUIS	0-20
Dec. 23	KANSAS CITY	9-20
Dec. 31	at N.Y. Jets	3-23

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	ARIZONA (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 18	at San Francisco (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 24	ST. LOUIS (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 30	at Seattle (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	DETROIT	1:15
Sep. 16	at Denver	2:15
Sep. 23	CLEVELAND	1:05
Sep. 30	at Miami	1:00
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	at San Diego	1:15
Oct. 21	KANSAS CITY	2:05
Oct. 28	at Tennessee	12:00
Nov. 4	HOUSTON	1:15
Nov. 11	CHICAGO	1:15
Nov. 18	at Minnesota	12:00
Nov. 25	at Kansas City	12:00
Dec. 2	DENVER	1:05
Dec. 9	at Green Bay	12:00
Dec. 16	INDIANAPOLIS	1:05
Dec. 23	at Jacksonville	1:00
Dec. 30	SAN DIEGO	1:15

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

2006 RECORD: 14-3 | STADIUM: Qualcomm Stadium, 70,000, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

AFC WEST | www.chargers.com

AT A GLANCE

4020 Murphy Canyon Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 874-4500

TRAINING CAMP:
Chargers Park; San Diego, CA

COACH:
Norv Turner, 1st year with Chargers, 10th year as NFL head coach (59-83-1)

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/ GENERAL MANAGER:
A.J. Smith

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER/ DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Buddy Nix

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Ed McGuire

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Jimmy Raye

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
John Spanos

DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:
Dennis Abraham

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Clarence Shelmon	Offensive coordinator	17	6
John Ramsdell	Quarterbacks	13	2
John "Jack" Henry	Offensive line	14	3
Hal Hunter	Offensive line	2	2
Matt Simon	Running backs	8	1
James Lofton	Receivers	6	6
Clancy Barone	Tight ends	4	1
Ted Cottrell	Defensive coordinator	23	1
Wayne Nunnely	Defensive line	13	11
Ron Rivera	Inside linebackers	11	1
John Pagano	Outside linebackers	12	6
Bill Bradley	Secondary	7	1
Kevin Ross	Asst. secondary/qual.cont.	4	1
Steve Crosby	Special teams	30	6
Jeff Hurd	Strength & Conditioning	13	1
Vernon Stephens	Strength & Conditioning	3	1

Expectations as High as Ever for Chargers

Welcome to the longest preseason in NFL history.

The Chargers, with new head coach Norv Turner and few new faces, set their sights — again — on an extended playoff run. While giddy over their NFL-best 14-2 regular-season mark in 2006, the focus remains on excelling in the post-season.

Former coach Marty Schottenheimer got little credit for that stunning record and most of the blame for the post-season pratfall to the Patriots. For that, and the fact his relationship with general manager A.J. Smith was dysfunctional, he was fired.

Turner was hired with a dismal head-coaching resume (59-83-1), but with his DNA all over the Chargers' powerful offense — he implemented it as the team's coordinator in 2001.

Can Turner match Schottenheimer's '06 regular-season mark? Doubtful. But the Chargers would gladly trade some of those early-season victories for their first playoff triumph since 1994.

In that vein, the Chargers' regular season will have a preseason feel to it. No matter how well the defending AFC West champions do, if advancing to the playoffs and stumbling again happens, it'll be another lost year for a franchise that has dropped four straight post-season games.

COACHING

Turner's offensive touch is hard to argue. Since helping the Cowboys to two Super Bowl titles in the '90s, he's been considered among the NFL's sharpest offensive minds. But Turner needs to prove he's not just another guy shining as a coordinator, and not as a head coach.

Turner's other two chances came with the Raiders and Redskins — not exactly pictures of stability. Plus, he gets a Chargers team with a loaded roster and Pro Bowlers sprinkled on both sides of the ball. But he has to provide leadership and innovation to an entire team, and not just one side of the ball.

The Chargers also have two new coordinators in Clarence Shelmon (offense) and Ted Cottrell (defense).

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

Philip Rivers quickly showed why general manager A. J. Smith lost little sleep in letting Drew Brees leave. Rivers, a Pro Bowler, displayed accuracy (61.7 percent completion rate) and a cool hand in steering the wheel of the NFL's highest-scoring offense.

Rivers, in his first year as a starter, threw for nearly 3,400 yards and 22 touchdowns with just nine interceptions. Only the Rams' Marc Bulger had more scoring passes and fewer interceptions. And Rivers' 14-2 mark through his first 16 games is tied with Dan Marino and Mike Tomczak as the second-best all-time.

Veteran Billy Volek is behind Rivers, with second-year pro Charlie Whitehurst filling out the depth chart.

RATING: 8

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:

WR Craig Davis
This offense didn't need much, but it was lacking a speedster to stretch defenses. Davis could fit the bill, while opening up options underneath. That might make Tomlinson and Gates even more productive.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
None

KEY LOSS:
LB Donnie Edwards (16/16)*
In each of his five Chargers seasons, Edwards was the team's leading tackler. He also excels in pass coverages, which is such a key element for a linebacker in the team's 3-4 alignment.

OTHER LOSSES
LB Steve Foley (0/0), LB Randall Godfrey (13/13), WR Az-Zahir Hakim (0/0), OT Leander Jordan (0/0), S Terrence Kiel (15/15), TE Ryan Krause (0/0), WR Keenan McCardell (14/11), TE Aaron Shea (0/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 10 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2006

RUNNING BACKS

LaDainian Tomlinson is coming off a season for the ages, setting the NFL mark for touchdowns, scoring and pacing the league in rushing. Tomlinson, the NFL's MVP, should pick up where he left off. While few see him exceeding last year's amazing run, he's entering the prime of a career that will likely land him in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Not only does Tomlinson's skills make him difficult to tackle, he has the good fortune of running behind Pro Bowl fullback Lorenzo Neal. The bruising Neal's contribution to Tomlinson's success shouldn't be minimized.

Michael Turner, the subject of countless trade rumors in the off-season, is a reliable backup to Tomlinson. The hard-nosed Turner delivers blows as well as absorbing them; he averaged 6.3 yards on 80 carries, scoring two touchdowns.

RATING: 10

RECEIVERS

Neither 2006 opening day wideout starter had a touchdown catch last season, which is why Keenan McCardell was cut and Eric Parker could be dropping on the depth chart.

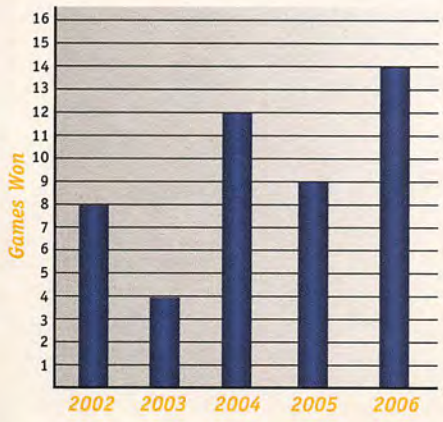
Vincent Jackson, a promising third-year pro, could seize the opportunity to become the team's top wide receiver target. Opposite Jackson could be rookie Craig Davis, the first wide receiver the Chargers drafted in the first round since Anthony Miller in 1988.

Parker could slip to the No. 3 role, although he figures to be pushed by the 6-5 Malcom Floyd, who's a tantalizing red-zone option.

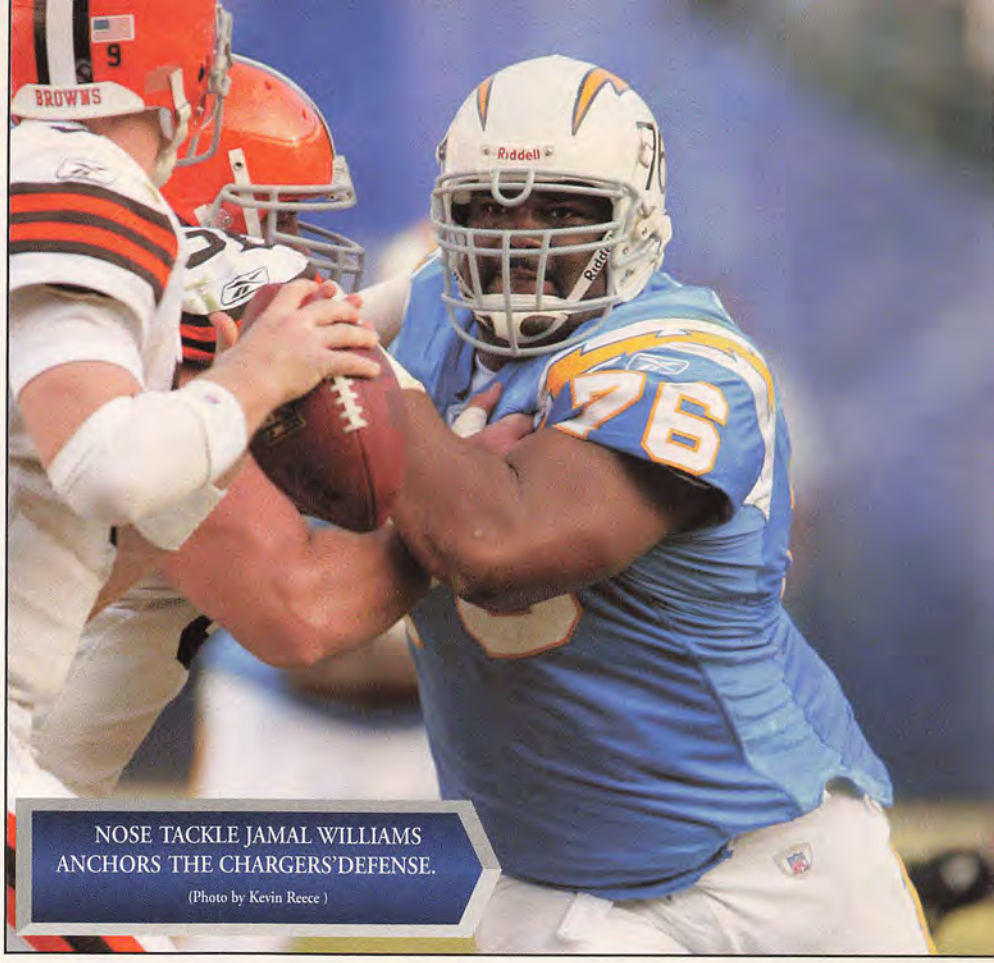
Tight end Antonio Gates continues to play at an All-Pro level. He fell 76 yards shy of a 1,000-yard season in leading the Chargers with 71 catches and nine touchdowns. He's simply the gold standard at his position.

RATING: 7

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2004,2006*



NOSE TACKLE JAMAL WILLIAMS ANCHORS THE CHARGERS' DEFENSE.
(Photo by Kevin Reece)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A unit doesn't produce 56 touchdowns without a stout offensive line. And the Chargers were no exception, thanks in part to the surprising play of rookie left tackle Marcus McNeill. McNeill, the 50th overall selection last year, stepped in as a starter and never blinked. He protected Rivers' blind side with a passion, and was seldom overmatched going against quicker and more experienced players.

Center Nick Hardwick earned his first Pro Bowl invitation and many felt left guard Kris Dielman should have received a similar honor as well. Dielman nearly left in the off-season, but spurned a more lucrative offer by the Seahawks to stay in San Diego. Mike Goff is the veteran influence along the front that also includes tenacious right tackle Shane Olivea.

RATING: 8

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Jamal Williams anchors the 3-4 in the middle, and everyone else plays off him. Minus the stellar play of the Pro Bowl tackle, the Chargers' defense wouldn't be nearly as effective. It takes two blockers to stifle Williams, which frees up his teammates for the tackles and glory.

Defensive end Luis Castillo had a potential breakout season derailed by a stubborn ankle injury that forced him to miss six games. He still managed seven sacks and 52 tackles. Igor Olshansky plays opposite Castillo on running downs, where he collected 50 tackles. Olshansky is among the team's top run-stuffers and difficult to move at the point of attack.

Backup end Jacques Cesaire saw action in all 16 games and started 10 filling in for Castillo and Olshansky. He had a career-high four sacks, including two in one game.

RATING: 8

LINEBACKERS

Shawne Merriman and Shaun Phillips were forces off the edges. Merriman paced the NFL with 17 sacks and Phillips added 11.5. While it's Merriman's strength that often gets him to the pocket, few can match the first step of Phillips, which Schottenheimer compared to Derrick Thomas.

But questions revolve inside, where the Chargers let two veteran players walk. Donnie Edwards and Randall Godfrey exited, and took with them valuable leadership and productivity. The Chargers are hopeful former second-stringers Matt Wilhelm and Stephen Cooper can step in, although it's a stretch to speculate they can replace Edwards and Godfrey and perform at their levels quickly.

Second-year pro Tim Dobbins and rookie Anthony Waters are two other inside linebackers figuring to get a long look.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

Cornerback Quentin Jammer had his best NFL

Chargers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
82	Camarillo, Greg	6-1	190	2	Stanford	4/0	FA 06	OFA SD 06	He will have to fight for a roster spot.
87	Chandler, Scott (TE)	6-7	265	R	Iowa	0/0	D4 07	D4 SD 07	Team ecstatic to add this ex-Iowa standout.
84	**Davis, Craig**	**6-1**	**202**	**R**	**Louisiana State**	**0/0**	**D1 07**	**D1 SD 07**	**Rookie gives team much needed speed to stretch field.**
80	*Floyd, Malcom	6-5	225	2	Wyoming	12/0	FA 05	OFA SD 04	With his size, Rivers loves him in the red zone.
85	**Gates, Antonio (TE)**	**6-4**	**260**	**5**	**Kent State**	**16/16**	**OFA 03**	**OFA SD 03**	**Has become the tight end others are compared to.**
83	**Jackson, Vincent**	**6-5**	**241**	**3**	**Northern Colorado**	**16/7**	**D2 05**	**D2 SD 05**	**Chances are he'll be the team's No. 1 wideout.**
86	Manumaleuna, Brandon (TE)	6-2	288	7	Arizona	16/7	T,STL 06	D4 STL 01	Soft hands often overlooked by his blocking.
81	Osgood, Kassim	6-5	220	5	San Diego State	16/0	OFA 03	OFA SD 03	His forte will remain special teams.
88	Parker, Eric	6-0	180	6	Tennessee	15/12	FA 02	OFA HOUS 02	Needs to forget his unforgettable playoff game.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
68	**Dielman, Kris (G)**	**6-4**	**310**	**5**	**Indiana**	**15/15**	**FA 03**	**OFA SD 03**	**His return keeps a stout line intact and nasty.**
79	**Goff, Mike (G)**	**6-5**	**311**	**10**	**Iowa**	**16/16**	**UFA,CIN 04**	**D3 CIN 98**	**The savvy veteran makes others look good.**
61	**Hardwick, Nick (C)**	**6-4**	**295**	**4**	**Purdue**	**16/16**	**D3 04**	**D3 SD 04**	**Pro Bowl center a leader on the line.**
71	Lekkerkerker, Cory (T)	6-7	323	3	California-Davis	15/0	FA 05	OFA SD 05	Backup tackle and tight end on the goal line.
73	**McNeill, Marcus (T)**	**6-7**	**336**	**2**	**Auburn**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 SD 06**	**Looks to build on sensational rookie year.**
63	Mruczkowski, Scott (C/G)	6-5	318	3	Bowling Green	7/1	D7 05	D7 SD 05	Steady backup impressed filling in for Dielman.
72	Oben, Roman (T)	6-4	305	12	Louisville	2/0	T,TB 04	D3 NYG 96	Getting long in the tooth and at the end of the line.
70	**Olivea, Shane (T)**	**6-4**	**312**	**4**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**D7 04**	**D7 SD 04**	**Took up boxing to be able to go the distance.**
65	Withrow, Cory (C)	6-2	287	8	Washington State	11/0	FA 06	OFA MINN 98	Will again be Hardwick's caddy.
RUNNING BACKS									
40	Naanee, Legedu (FB/WR)	6-2	226	R	Boise State	0/0	D5 07	D5 SD 07	Converted quarterback will do anything and everything to make the roster.
41	**Neal, Lorenzo (FB)**	**5-11**	**255**	**14**	**Fresno State**	**16/11**	**UFA,CIN 03**	**D4 NO 93**	**The battering ram never tires of opening holes.**
34	Pinnock, Andrew (FB)	5-10	250	5	South Carolina	3/0	D7 03	D7 SD 03	Drafted as fullback; future as a running back?
43	*Sproles, Darren (KR)	5-6	181	3	Kansas	0/0	D4 05	D4 SD 05	Back from broken leg; could help return kicks.
21	**Tomlinson, LaDainian**	**5-10**	**221**	**7**	**Texas Christian**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 SD 01**	**Hey Canton, start molding that Hall of Fame bust.**
33	Turner, Michael	5-10	237	4	Northern Illinois	13/0	D5 04	D5 SD 04	Nearly left, but returns as Tomlinson's battering backup.
QUARTERBACKS									
17	**Rivers, Philip**	**6-5**	**228**	**4**	**North Carolina State**	**16/16**	**T,NYG 04**	**D1 NYG 04**	**Will Norv Turner's touch make him even better?**
7	Volek, Billy	6-2	214	8	Fresno State	1/0	T,TENN 07	OFA TENN 00	Veteran sticks around, just in case.
6	Whitehurst, Charlie	6-4	227	2	Clemson	2/0	D3 06	D3 SD 06	Team remains high on his upside.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
97	Bingham, Ryon (NT)	6-3	303	3	Nebraska	16/0	FA 05	D7 SD 04	Gives Williams an occasional blow and fares well.
93	**Castillo, Luis (E)**	**6-3**	**290**	**3**	**Northwestern**	**10/9**	**D1 05**	**D1 SD 05**	**Might be in for a monster year if he stays fit.**
74	Cesaire, Jacques (E)	6-2	295	5	So. Connecticut State	16/10	OFA 03	OFA SD 03	When Olshansky sits, Cesaire finds way to pocket.
91	McKinney, Brandon (NT)	6-2	324	2	Michigan State	6/0	FA 06	OFA SD 06	An insurance policy if something happens to Bingham.
99	**Olshansky, Igor (E)**	**6-6**	**309**	**4**	**Oregon**	**13/13**	**D2 04**	**D2 SD 04**	**He only plays on running downs, but plays well.**
98	Robinson, Derreck (E)	6-4	289	3	Iowa	14/0	OFA 05	OFA SD 05	Actually played pretty well in spurts, then got hurt.
76	**Williams, Jamal (NT)**	**6-3**	**348**	**10**	**Oklahoma State**	**16/16**	**SD2 98**	**SD2 SD 98**	**This huge man in the middle is the beast of the Bolts, and maybe the league.**
LINEBACKERS									
54	**Cooper, Stephen (I)**	**6-1**	**235**	**5**	**Maine**	**16/4**	**OFA 03**	**OFA SD 03**	**Being asked to replace Donnie Edwards — no small task.**
51	Dobbins, Tim (I)	6-1	246	2	Iowa State	16/0	D5 06	D5 SD 06	Rugged run-stuffer could push for more playing time.
92	Harris, Marques (O)	6-1	231	2	Southern Utah State	15/2	OFA 05	OFA SD 05	Athletic player can be a force blitzing on passing downs.
56	**Merriman, Shawne (O)**	**6-4**	**272**	**3**	**Maryland**	**12/12**	**D1 05**	**D1 SD 05**	**Eager to erase steroids cloud with another big year.**
95	**Phillips, Shaun (O)**	**6-3**	**262**	**4**	**Purdue**	**14/14**	**D4 04**	**D4 SD 04**	**The "other" pass rusher is nearly as good as Merriman.**
52	Polk, Carlos (O)	6-2	262	7	Nebraska	16/3	D4 01	D4 SD 01	Supplies depth and is a force on special teams.
59	Siler, Brandon (I)	6-2	239	R	Florida	0/0	D7 07	D7 SD 07	Will be difficult for this seventh-rounder to make squad.
53	Waters, Anthony (I)	6-3	238	R	Clemson	0/0	D3 07	D3 SD 07	Rookie has to prove he's rebounded from bum knee.
57	**Wilhelm, Matt (I)**	**6-4**	**245**	**5**	**Ohio State**	**16/0**	**D4 03**	**D4 SD 03**	**While not a youngster, he doesn't have much experience.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
31	Cromartie, Antonio (CB)	6-2	203	2	Florida State	16/0	D1 06	D1 SD 06	If Florence stumbles in camp, Cromartie will move in.
29	**Florence, Drayton (CB)**	**6-0**	**195**	**5**	**Tuskegee**	**16/16**	**D2 03**	**D2 SD 03**	**A talent, but sometimes doesn't think before he acts.**
24	Gordon, Cletis (CB)	6-1	197	2	Jackson State	2/0	OFA 06	OFA SD 06	His versatility as a kickoff returner could aid him.
28	Gregory, Steve (CB)	5-11	185	2	Syracuse	14/0	FA 06	OFA SD 06	Needs to have a solid camp to stay in the corner mix.
42	**Hart, Clinton (S)**	**6-0**	**205**	**5**	**Central Florida CC**	**16/1**	**W,PHA 04**	**OFA PHA 02**	**All the talk is about Weddle; we say Hart is the starter.**
23	**Jammer, Quentin (CB)**	**6-0**	**204**	**6**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 SD 02**	**He needs to show his solid 2006 was no fluke.**
27	Jue, Bhawoh (S)	6-0	200	7	Penn State	12/2	UFA,GB 05	D3 GB 01	Minus sore knee, he could push for a starting job.
20	**McCree, Marlon (S)**	**5-11**	**202**	**7**	**Kentucky**	**14/14**	**UFA,CARO 06**	**D7 JAX 01**	**Gives a great veteran presence and communication to the secondary.**
32	Weddle, Eric (S)	5-11	200	R	Utah	0/0	D2 07	D2 SD 07	Utah standout can play all over field; year away from starting?
SPECIALISTS									
50	Binn, David (LS)	6-3	223	14	California	16/0	OFA 94	OFA SD 94	For 14 years, there's been no better long snapper.
10	Kaeding, Nate (K)	6-0	187	4	Iowa	16/0	D3 04	D3 SD 04	Wearing a Pro Bowl lei after a career year; kickoffs longer, too.
5	Scifres, Mike (P)	6-2	236	5	Western Illinois	16/0	D5 03	D5 SD 03	His powerful leg translates into good field position for Bolts.

*Ended 2006 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; OFA=Original Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Jarrett Hicks (Texas Tech), Chad Schroeder (Texas A&M), Sonny Shackelford (Washington), Mark Simmons (1, Kansas); TEs T.J. Cottrell (1, Buffalo State), Kelly Griffeth (1, Fort Hays State); OTs Jeromey Clary (1, Kansas State), Tony Pape (1, Michigan); OGs Mike Jones (Iowa), Erik Robertson (California), Jeremy Sheffey (West Virginia); C Mark Bihl (Michigan); RBs Eldra Buckley (Tennessee-Chattanooga), Tyronne Gross (1, Eastern Oregon), Germaine Race (Pittsburg State), Reggie Merriweather (Clemson); FB Mike Warren (1, Elon); QB Brett Elliott (1, Linfield); DEs Andre Coleman (Albany, N.Y.), Barry Cryer (Nebraska), Keith Grennan (Eastern Washington); DT Louis Leonard (Fresno State); LBs Antwan Applewhite (San Diego State), Kurt Kahui (1, San Diego State), Nick Roach (Northwestern), Jyles Tucker (Wake Forest); CBs Anthony Arline (Baylor), Gabe Franklin (1, Boise State), Quinton Jones (Boise State); Ss Tra Battle (Georgia), Miguel Merrick (Iowa); P Brian Monroe (Miami)

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

*An improving Philip Rivers. It's tough to improve after a Pro Bowl season in your first year as a starter. But coach Norv Turner's touch should benefit Rivers, who has the luxury of sharing the backfield with the NFL's MVP.

*Inside linebacker. The Chargers let two savvy veterans go in Donnie Edwards and Randall Godfrey. Their replacements are likely first-year starters Matt Wilhelm and Stephen Cooper. Both did well in spots; but the question is whether they can do likewise on a consistent basis.

*Norv Turner. His mediocre career mark as a head coach will come under much scrutiny if the Chargers stumble from the gate. And in opening against the Bears and Patriots, a slow start isn't farfetched.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Shawne Merriman

In Shawne Merriman's second year, he led the league with 17 sacks, was selected to the Pro Bowl and finished third in the NFL Defensive Player of the Year voting. But all that came with the stain of a dirty steroids test surrounding him; he was suspended for four games.

Can Merriman prove his detractors wrong, that his production wasn't the result of an illegal substance? Merriman, who underwent shoulder surgery in the off-season, has long claimed he was the victim of a tainted supplement and never knowingly took steroids. That may or may not be true. But in the court of public opinion, Merriman was a cheat.

He was serenaded with chants of "steroids" at every road game and called out by NFL players for being a Pro Bowler the same season of his positive test.

In what's known as the Merriman Rule, no player is now eligible for the Pro Bowl after flunking a drug test that same season. That's not quite the NFL legacy Merriman was seeking.

This season, Merriman is bent on proving he's the NFL's top defensive player, and he doesn't need steroids for him to do it. Many eyes will be watching, especially those doubting someone who so badly wants to be among the public faces of the NFL.

season, with four interceptions and 17 passes defensed. Drayton Florence was relatively solid opposite Jammer, although Florence will long be remembered for his critical personal foul penalty in the playoff loss to New England.

Florence figures to be challenged by Antonio Cromartie for a starting role. Cromartie was used in passing situations last year and fared OK. The team's first-round pick in 2006 did get picked on occasionally, and he still seeks his first career interception.

Free safety Marlon McCree was a calming influence on the defense's back end. Although he snagged but two turnovers, one was a fumble return good for 79 yards that helped beat the Rams.

Rookie Eric Weddle, who the Chargers surrendered four draft picks to select in the second round, will be given a long look. His competition of Clinton Hart and Bhawoh Jue must not excite the Chargers, otherwise they wouldn't have relinquished such a windfall to Chicago in moving up and drafting Weddle.

Probably the best thing this secondary has going for it is the ferocious pass rush (61 sacks) the Chargers deliver.

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Nate Kaeding was anointed a Pro Bowler after converting 26 of 29 field-goal attempts and setting a Chargers record for points (136) by a kicker. He also found more distance on his kickoffs with 11 touchbacks.

Punter Mike Scifres turned in another steady season, although a quick look at his statistics doesn't tell the whole story. While his 41.9-yard average ranked among the bottom, his 38.2 net average was about a yard shy of the league lead.

Michael Turner gives the return game a boost, but the punt-return game needs work. Parker filled that role last year, but was very ordinary. Look for Davis or the return of a healthy Darren Sproles to be considered for the job.

David Binn, a 14-year pro, remains among the NFL's steadiest long snappers.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

Schottenheimer led the team to a 35-13 mark over the past three years, which included two AFC West crowns. Consider since the Spanos family took ownership in 1984, the Chargers have but six winning seasons in non-strike years. And Schottenheimer, the coach responsible for half of them, was unceremoniously dumped because of problems with Smith.

While there's little doubt the Chargers' roster is among the NFL's most talented, those players must perform realizing that anything shy of an extended playoff stay will qualify as a disappointing season.

RATING: Even

— Jay Paris

2006 RESULTS

Record: 14-3

Sep. 11	at Oakland	27- 0
Sep. 17	TENNESSEE	40- 7
Sep. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 1	at Baltimore	13-16
Oct. 8	PITTSBURGH	23-13
Oct. 15	at San Francisco	48-19
Oct. 22	at Kansas City	27-30
Oct. 29	ST. LOUIS	38-24
Nov. 5	CLEVELAND	32-25
Nov. 12	at Cincinnati	49-41
Nov. 19	at Denver	35-27
Nov. 26	OAKLAND	21-14
Dec. 3	at Buffalo	24-21
Dec. 10	DENVER	48-20
Dec. 17	KANSAS CITY	20- 9
Dec. 24	at Seattle	20-17
Dec. 31	ARIZONA	27-20
Jan. 14	NEW ENGLAND	21-24

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 12	SEATTLE (Sun.)	5:15
Aug. 18	at St. Louis (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 25	at Arizona (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 30	SAN FRANCISCO (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 9	CHICAGO	1:15
Sep. 16	at New England	8:15
Sep. 23	at Green Bay	12:00
Sep. 30	KANSAS CITY	1:15
Oct. 7	at Denver	2:15
Oct. 14	OAKLAND	1:15
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	HOUSTON	1:05
Nov. 4	at Minnesota	12:00
Nov. 11	INDIANAPOLIS	5:15
Nov. 18	at Jacksonville	1:00
Nov. 25	BALTIMORE	1:15
Dec. 2	at Kansas City	12:00
Dec. 9	at Tennessee	12:00
Dec. 16	DETROIT	1:15
Dec. 24	DENVER (Mon.)	5:00
Dec. 30	at Oakland	1:15

FANTASY FOOTBALL Guide

Top Players and the Numbers

By Jim Donaldson

The Raiders made their fans happy by using the first pick in the 2007 draft to select strong-armed quarterback JaMarcus Russell. The Dolphins made their fans angry when they chose a wide receiver, Ted Ginn Jr., over the quarterback many Dolfans wanted — Brady Quinn.

So what will you do when it's your turn to draft? Take a QB? Or opt for a wide receiver, instead? Of course, you always could take a running back, especially if his name's LaDainian Tomlinson, and you have the first pick in the draft.

It's not just who you draft that matters, but also when you draft them. As many points as kickers score, you shouldn't take one too early, because any number of them can provide plenty of production.

When your 2007 Fantasy Draft is over, will you be happy? Or will you be frustrated? It could depend on how closely you read this scouting assessment:

Best of the Bunch

The top bananas at each position

RB LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego: The guy everyone wants. His 186 points scored last year were a league record. And he also threw for two touchdowns!

QB Peyton Manning, Indianapolis: Has even more touchdown passes than TV commercials.

WR Marvin Harrison, Indianapolis: You could make a case for others, but this is the guy I want.

TE Antonio Gates, San Diego: In a class by himself at this position.

K Nate Kaeding, San Diego: Young, strong, accurate leg for a high-scoring team that plays in good weather.

Old Faces, New Places

1. **Thomas Jones, RB, N.Y. Jets:** The "next Curtis Martin" led the Bears in rushing in '06, with 1,210 yards. Should do likewise with the Jets.
2. **Willis McGahee, Baltimore:** He'll return to being a 1,000-yard rusher, now that he's with the Ravens.
3. **Travis Henry, RB, Denver:** If he gained 1,211 yards for the Titans, shouldn't he rack up even more with the Broncos?
4. **Randy Moss, WR, New England:** Just win, baby. The Raiders still preach it, but the Patriots actually practice it.
5. **Donte' Stallworth, WR, New England:** Last year, the Patriots didn't have a deep threat. Now, with Moss and Stallworth, they have a dynamic duo.
6. **Joe Horn, WR, Atlanta:** Should thrive in new coach Bobby Petrino's pass-oriented offense.
7. **Randy McMichael, TE, St. Louis:** Another weapon in Rams' potent offensive arsenal.
8. **Darrell Jackson, WR, San Francisco:** Not likely to match career-high 10 touchdown catches he had last year for Seahawks, but should be a scoring threat for improving 49ers.
9. **Olindo Mare, K, New Orleans:** Will be booting indoors for a team than puts up points.
10. **Jamal Lewis, Cleveland:** No way he's as productive for the Browns as he was with the Ravens.
11. **Matt Schaub, QB, Houston:** Former Falcons backup will start for league's worst team. Doesn't sound like a formula for success.
12. **Tatum Bell, RB, Detroit:** Ran for a career-high 1,025 yards last season in Denver. Don't see him surpassing that with lowly Lions.
13. **Mike Williams, WR, Oakland:** The 10th player taken in the '05 draft, he had just two touchdown catches in two years in Detroit.

The Arms Race

1. **Carson Palmer, Cincinnati:** Great arm, great receivers, great offense, great pick.
2. **Tom Brady, New England:** He threw 24 touchdown passes last year to a motley crew of mediocre receivers. Now that the Pats have brought in Donte' Stallworth, Randy Moss and Wes Welker, he could surpass his career-high of 28.
3. **Philip Rivers, San Diego:** Threw for 22 touchdowns in his first season as a starter, and he's only going to get better.
4. **Marc Bulger, St. Louis:** He's in his prime at 30, in his second year in Linehan's system. Belongs near the top of your list.
5. **Drew Brees, New Orleans:** He and the Saints were a great story last year. Next chapter may not be as exciting as the 26 touchdowns he had in '06, but he still should go high in any Fantasy draft.
6. **Matt Hasselbeck, Seattle:** Got to believe he's good for at least 20 touchdown passes this season, after throwing for only 18 last year.
7. **Matt Leinart, Arizona:** Cards' new coach Ken Whisenhunt is an offensive guy who was instrumental in Ben Roethlisberger's rapid development in Pittsburgh. With receivers like Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin, Leinart could double last year's total of 11 touchdown passes — if, that is, the Cards' suspect offensive line can protect him.
8. **Jake Delhomme, Carolina:** A disappointment last year with only 17 touchdown passes. He'll better that this season.
9. **Eli Manning, N.Y. Giants:** Not as good as big brother Peyton, but 24 touchdown tosses aren't bad.
10. **Vince Young, Tennessee:** Could be something special, as his four fourth-quarter comeback victories last year as a rookie clearly indicate. Ran for seven touchdowns — three of those longer than 20 yards — and certainly will surpass last year's total of 12 touchdown tosses, even with lackluster array of receivers.
11. **Michael Vick, Atlanta:** Formerly run-oriented Falcons could be throwing the ball all over the field now that Bobby Petrino is the head coach, but Vick's off-field issues continue to be a concern.
12. **Jay Cutler, Denver:** Broncos' young quarterback may be overlooked and underrated. He has the potential to be a good one, under Mike Shanahan's tutelage.
13. **Donovan McNabb, Philadelphia:** Have always liked McNabb, but his health is a huge question mark heading into this season.
14. **Tony Romo, Dallas:** You certainly don't want him as your holder. As your quarterback? Maybe.
15. **Rex Grossman, Chicago:** If you think he can better last year's total of 23 touchdown tosses, you'd better take him. The thinking here is, you're better off without him.
16. **Brett Favre, Green Bay:** Still admire him. Just won't draft him. Not at age 37, with a team that could make him look a lot older.
17. **J.P. Losman, Buffalo:** If his first two initials were T.D., maybe he'd be worth a high pick.
18. **Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh:** First it was the motorcycle accident. Then the appendectomy. Now it's a new head coach, offensive coordinator, and quarterbacks coach. This is not the time to draft Big Ben.

Run to the Bank

1. **Steven Jackson, St. Louis:** Had a career year in '06, scoring 16 touchdowns and rushing for 1,528 yards. And he's only 24 years old.
2. **Larry Johnson, Kansas City:** If you can't have L.T., then L.J. may be the next best thing.
3. **Rudi Johnson, Cincinnati:** Has scored 12 touchdowns in each of the last three seasons for the Bengals. No reason to think he won't do it again.
4. **Laurence Maroney, New England:** Ran for six touchdowns as a rookie, while sharing time with Corey Dillon, who had 13. Now Dillon's gone. What does that add up to? Off-season shoulder surgery shouldn't deter you from drafting Pats' top back.
5. **Maurice Jones-Drew, Jacksonville:** Could be hard to match the 16 touchdowns he racked up as a rookie last year, but it's also going to be hard to pass on him if he's available when it's your turn to draft.

6. **Shaun Alexander, Seattle:** Production plummeted from 27 touchdowns in '05 to just seven last year because of injuries. He's 30 years old now, and may be starting to slow down, but you've got to figure he's still good for double-digit touchdowns and more than 1,000 yards if he can stay healthy.
7. **Willie Parker, Pittsburgh:** He's no Bettis, but those 16 touchdowns last year were a club record.
8. **Marion Barber, Dallas:** Parcells gave him the ball near the goal line. Will Phillips do likewise?
9. **Reggie Bush, New Orleans:** You know the Saints are going to get the ball into his hands, which means he's going to get it into the end zone. I'd take him over teammate Deuce McAlister, even though Deuce had 11 touchdowns last year, to Bush's nine.
10. **Frank Gore, San Francisco:** Led the NFC in rushing, but durability and weak team make continued productivity questionable.

Good Hands People

As no less an authority than Bill Walsh once said of wide receivers: "They're all good. That's the problem. It's hard to find one that's so much better that he'll make a difference." Unless, of course, you find one like Jerry Rice. There are lots of wideouts who'll get you 1,000 yards and six-to-10 touchdowns, so be patient and consider the following when the time comes to fill that spot on your fantasy roster.

1. **Torry Holt, St. Louis:** Either Holt or Harrison should be your top-rated receiver.
2. **Steve Smith, Carolina:** Since I think Delhomme will have a better year, it stands to reason that Smith would, too.
3. **Plaxico Burress, N.Y. Giants:** Eli's coming to him when the time comes to go deep.
4. **Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona:** He was a touchdown machine in college at Pitt.
5. **T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Cincinnati:** Should change his initials to "T.D."
6. **Laveranues Coles, N.Y. Jets:** If Pennington again stays healthy, so will Coles' numbers.
7. **Chad Johnson, Cincinnati:** Led the league with 1,369 receiving yards, but doesn't score as often as Fantasy Fans would like.
8. **Terrell Owens, Dallas:** Big-play receiver who's also big trouble. Had big production last year, though.
9. **Donald Driver, Green Bay:** Expecting an across-the-board dropoff from last year's totals of 92 catches, 1,295 yards and eight touchdowns.
10. **Andre Johnson, Houston:** Good receiver on a bad team.
11. **Reggie Wayne, Indianapolis:** Good receiver on the team that's defending Super Bowl champions.
12. **Anquan Boldin, Arizona:** Don't know if he'll have more than the 83 catches and 1,203 yards he amassed in '06, but just about certain he'll catch more than four touchdown passes.

Tight Ends Who Can Get Loose

1. **Todd Heap, Baltimore:** Had heaps of catches (team-high 73) and touchdowns (six) for Ravens.
2. **Tony Gonzalez, Kansas City:** No longer the best in the business, but he's still a standout.
3. **Ben Watson, New England:** Could have a big year now that Pats have added a big-play wideout in Stallworth.
4. **Jeremy Shockey, N.Y. Giants:** Love him or hate him, you have to draft him.
5. **Alge Crumpler, Atlanta:** Scored a career-high eight touchdowns in '06 while leading the Falcons in number of catches made.
6. **Kellen Winslow Jr., Cleveland:** Not as good as his old man, but very few have been. Could be coming up on his best season.

Just for Kicks

Before you get overly concerned about which kicker you should draft, consider that 21 of them scored between 100 and 121 points last year, and that 17 had between 22 and 28 field goals.

1. **Jeff Wilkins, St. Louis:** Domes provide perfect conditions for kickers. The fact the Rams can move the ball is even better.
2. **Adam Vinatieri, Indianapolis:** Point totals suffered last year because he missed three games with a groin injury. The guy's going to be in the Hall of Fame someday, which ought to qualify him for your Fantasy team.
3. **Shayne Graham, Cincinnati:** Highly accurate kicker for a high-scoring team.
4. **Stephen Gostkowski, New England:** A fourth-round pick of Pats to replace Vinatieri, he should improve on his 103 points last year as a rookie.
5. **Robbie Gould, Chicago:** Will be stunned if he again leads NFL kickers in scoring (143 points) and field goals (32.) Let someone else pick him too high.
6. **Jason Elam, Denver:** May be slipping a bit, but kicking in Mile High all but guarantees he'll score at least 110 points.

Catch a Rising Star

The Fantasy draft order should be a little different for these NFL first-rounders:

1. **Marshawn Lynch, RB, Buffalo:** The Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year is a threat both running and receiving. Should step in and start for Bills.
2. **Calvin Johnson, WR, Detroit:** The Lions have a history of first-round flops at receiver, but this kid could turn out to be the best pass catcher in team history.
3. **Adrian Peterson, RB, Minnesota:** There's no question about his talent. His durability is a different matter.
4. **JaMarcus Russell, QB, Oakland:** Has lots of potential, but not much in the way of a supporting cast.
5. **Robert Meachem, WR, New Orleans:** Scored 11 touchdowns while racking up school-record 1,298 yards receiving last season for Tennessee.
6. **Dwayne Bowe, WR, Kansas City:** His 18 receptions of more than 20 yards for Louisiana State caught the Chiefs' eye.
7. **Anthony Gonzalez, WR, Indianapolis:** Got to figure this Buckeye star will be productive in potent Colts offense.
8. **Ted Ginn Jr., WR/KR, Miami:** Dolphins passed on Brady Quinn to take this speedster from Ohio State. Now if only someone in Miami can get him the ball.
9. **Brady Quinn, QB, Cleveland:** Has something to prove after disappointing fall to 22nd on draft day.
10. **Greg Olsen, TE, Chicago:** Latest in impressive line of University of Miami tight ends that includes Winslow Jr., Shockey and Bubba Franks.
11. **Craig Davis, WR, San Diego:** On a team with Tomlinson and Gates, how many touchdowns are left to go around?

FANTASY STATS

Because Fantasy Football leagues play by a variety of rules, this statistical section provides information to fit most any system. The statistics are for the 2005 regular season. For touchdowns and field goals, the figure in parentheses is the total number; the figures following indicate the length of each score. For milestone games (100 yards rushing and receiving, 300 yards passing), the figure in parentheses is the total number of such efforts and the other numbers indicate each individual total. The team designation indicates where the player was in 2005. If there is a team in parentheses, that indicates the player's new team. If there is an X in parentheses, that player was released by his last team. If there is the UFA in parentheses, that player is an unrestricted free agent.

Happy Drafting!

RUNNING BACKS

ADDAI, Indianapolis
TDs rushing (7) - 2, 2, 4, 5, 10, 15 (2)
100-yard rushing games (2) - 100, 171
TDs receiving (1) - 21

ALEXANDER, Seattle
TDs rushing (7) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 3, 9, 33
100-yard rushing games (2) - 140, 201

ALSTOTT, Tampa Bay
TDs rushing (3) - 1 (2), 14

ARRINGTON, Arizona
TDs KOR (1) - 99

BARBER, Dallas
TDs rushing (14) - 1 (6), 2, 3 (2), 5 (2), 7, 9, 14
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 2

BARBER, N.Y. Giants (retired)
TDs rushing (5) - 11, 15, 16, 50, 55
100-yard rushing games (8) - 110, 112, 114, 115, 123, 141, 185, 234

BARLOW, N.Y. Jets (Pittsburgh)
TDs rushing (6) - 1 (2), 2, 3 (2), 5

M. BELL, Denver
TDs rushing (8) - 1 (5), 2, 3 (2)
100-yard rushing games (1) - 136

T. BELL, Denver (Detroit)
TDs rushing (2) - 2, 9
100-yard rushing games (5) - 103, 115, 116, 123, 133

BENSON, Chicago
TDs rushing (6) - 1 (3), 2, 4, 24
100-yard rushing games (1) - 109

BETTS, Washington
TDs rushing (4) - 6, 7, 8, 9
100-yard rushing games (6) - 104, 119, 124, 129, 155, 171
TDs receiving (1) - 7

BROWN, Miami
TDs rushing (5) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 5
100-yard rushing games (4) - 110, 115, 127, 157

BRYSON, Detroit
TDs receiving (1) -37

BUCKHALTER, Philadelphia
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 2
TDs receiving (1) - 55

BUSH, New Orleans
TDs rushing (6) - 1 (3), 8, 10, 15
100-yard rushing games (1) - 126

TDs receiving (2) - 5, 61
100-yard receiving games (2) - 125, 131
TDs PR (1) - 65

CARTHON, Indianapolis (X)
TDs rushing (1) - 3

CARTWRIGHT, Washington
TDs KOR (1) - 100

DAVENPORT, Pittsburgh
TDs rushing (1) - 1
TDs receiving (1) - 13

DAVIS, St. Louis (UFA)
TDs receiving (1) - 10

DAYNE, Houston
TDs rushing (5) - 1 (2), 2, 3, 6
100-yard rushing games (1) - 153

DILLON, New England (X)
TDs rushing (13) - 1 (6), 2, 4 (2), 6, 8, 12, 21

DROUGHNS, Cleveland (N.Y. Giants)
TDs rushing (4) - 1 (3), 2
100-yard rushing games (2) - 100, 125

DUCKETT, Washington (Detroit)
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 5

DUNN, Atlanta
TDs rushing (4) - 1 (3), 90
100-yard rushing games (3) - 132, 134, 146
TDs receiving (1) -7

EVANS, New England
TDs receiving (1) -1

FARGAS, Oakland
TDs rushing (1) - 3

FASON, Minnesota
TDs rushing (1) - 4

FAULK, New England
TDs rushing (1) - 11
TDs receiving (2) - 17, 43

FOSTER, Carolina
TDs rushing (3) - 1, 2, 33
100-yard rushing games (3) - 102, 105, 106

GADO, Houston
TDs rushing (1) - 1

GOINGS, Carolina
TDs receiving (1) - 20

GORE, San Francisco
TDs rushing (8) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 4, 12, 32, 61
100-yard rushing games (9) - 111, 127, 130, 134 (2), 144, 153, 159, 212
TDs receiving (1) - 20

GREEN, Green Bay (Houston)
TDs rushing (5) - 1, 2, 4, 5, 70
100-yard rushing games (5) - 102, 106, 110, 118, 122
TDs receiving (1) -10

GRIFFITH, Atlanta (Oakland)
TDs receiving (3) -1, 5, 8

HARRIS, Detroit (UFA)
TDs rushing (1) - 1

HENRY, Tennessee (Denver)
TDs rushing (7) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 3, 9, 70
100-yard rushing games (6) - 102, 107, 123, 135, 143, 178

HERRON, Green Bay
TDs rushing (1) - 1
100-yard rushing games (1) - 106
TDs receiving (2) -5, 6

HICKS, San Francisco
TDs receiving (1) -33

HOOVER, Carolina
TDs rushing (1) - 5

HOUSTON, N.Y. Jets
TDs rushing (5) - 1 (2), 3, 5, 6
100-yard rushing games (1) - 105

JACKSON, St. Louis
TDs rushing (13) - 1, 2 (4), 3, 4 (2), 14, 19, 21, 36, 59
100-yard rushing games (6) - 103, 121 (2), 127, 142, 150
TDs receiving (3) - 6, 10, 64
100-yard receiving games (2) - 102, 133

JACOBS, N.Y. Giants
TDs rushing (9) - 1 (4), 2, 3, 4, 8, 10

JAMES, Arizona
TDs rushing (6) - 1 (2), 4, 6, 7, 8
100-yard rushing games (3) - 105, 115 (2)

J. JOHNSON, Cincinnati
TDs rushing (1) -3

R. JOHNSON, Cincinnati
TDs rushing (12) - 1 (3), 2, 4, 6 (2), 7, 9 (2), 12, 22
100-yard rushing games (5) - 101, 111, 117, 129, 145

JOHNSON, Denver
TDs receiving (1) - 1

JOHNSON, Kansas City
TDs rushing (17) - 1 (7), 2 (5), 3 (2), 5, 11, 12
100-yard rushing games (11) - 100, 110, 120, 126, 132, 135, 138, 154, 155, 157, 172
TDs receiving (2) - 9 (2)
100-yard receiving games (1) - 106

JONES, Chicago (N.Y. Jets)
TDs rushing (6) - 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 30
100-yard rushing games (4) - 110, 111, 113, 121

JONES, Dallas
TDs rushing (4) - 5, 14, 23, 77
100-yard rushing games (4) - 100, 106, 116, 122

JONES, Detroit
TDs rushing (6) - 2, 5, 7 (2), 35 (2)
100-yard rushing games (2) - 110, 127
TDs receiving (2) - 9, 23

JONES-DREW, Jacksonville
TDs rushing (13) - 1 (2), 3 (2), 4, 5, 6, 12, 14, 18, 32, 48, 74
100-yard rushing games (3) - 103, 131, 166
TDs receiving (2) - 7, 51
TDs KOR (1) - 93

JORDAN, Oakland
TDs rushing (1) - 1
100-yard rushing games (1) - 128

KARNEY, New Orleans
TDs rushing (1) - 2
TDs receiving (2) - 3, 6

LEACH, Houston
TDs receiving (1) -3

LEE, Oakland
TDs rushing (2) - 1 (2)

LEWIS, Baltimore (Cleveland)
TDs rushing (9) - 1 (3), 2 (2), 5, 7, 16
100-yard rushing games (2) - 109 (2)

LUNDY, Houston
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 2, 3, 17
100-yard rushing games (1) - 116

MARONEY, New England
TDs rushing (6) - 1 (3), 11, 25, 27
100-yard rushing games (1) - 125
TDs receiving (1) - 19

McAFEE, New Orleans (UFA)
TDs rushing (1) - 6

McALLISTER, New Orleans
TDs rushing (10) - 1 (2), 3 (3), 4, 9 (2), 23, 24
100-yard rushing games (4) - 108, 111, 123, 136

McCRARY, Atlanta (UFA)
TDs receiving (1) - 4

McGAHEE, Buffalo (Baltimore)
TDs rushing (6) - 1 (2), 2, 4, 30, 57
100-yard rushing games (2) - 125, 150

MOORE, Minnesota
TDs receiving (1) - 35
TDs passing (1) - 15
TDs PR (1) - 71

MORENCY, Green Bay
TDs rushing (2) - 14, 21
100-yard rushing games (1) - 101

MORRIS, Miami (New England)
TDs rushing (1) - 3
100-yard rushing games (1) - 123

MORRIS, Seattle
100-yard rushing games (2) - 124, 138

MUGHELLI, Baltimore (Atlanta)
TDs receiving (2) -9, 30

NEAL, San Diego
TDs rushing (1) - 4

NORRIS, San Francisco
TDs receiving (2) - 2, 32

NORWOOD, Atlanta
100-yard rushing games (2) - 106, 107

PARKER, Pittsburgh
TDs rushing (13) - 1 (4), 3 (5), 4, 8, 9, 41
100-yard rushing games (7) - 109, 115, 132, 133, 134, 213, 223
TDs receiving (3) -4, 15, 25

PEARMAN, Jacksonville
TDs rushing (1) - 6

PETERSON, Chicago
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 2

PINNER, Minnesota
TDs rushing (3) - 1, 3, 4
100-yard rushing games (1) - 125

PITTMAN, Tampa Bay
TDs rushing (1) - 11

PORTIS, Washington
TDs rushing (7) - 1 (2), 4, 5, 10, 30, 38
100-yard rushing games (1) - 112

RHODES, Indianapolis (Oakland)
TDs rushing (5) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 6

ROBINSON, San Francisco
TDs rushing (2) - 1 (2)

SELLERS, Washington
TDs receiving (1) -1

SHIPP, Arizona
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 5, 6, 9

STRONG, Seattle
TDs rushing (1) - 3

TAPEH, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (1) -12

TAYLOR, Houston
TDs rushing (1) - 5

TAYLOR, Jacksonville
TDs rushing (5) - 5, 10, 13, 15, 21
100-yard rushing games (4) - 101, 103, 111, 131
TDs receiving (1) - 26

TAYLOR, Minnesota
TDs rushing (6) - 1 (4), 4, 95
100-yard rushing games (4) - 113, 123, 136, 169

THOMAS, Buffalo
TDs rushing (2) - 14, 18
100-yard rushing games (1) - 109

THOMPSON, Dallas
TDs rushing (1) - 7

TOMLINSON, San Diego
TDs rushing (28) - 1 (5), 2 (3), 3 (2), 4 (3), 5 (2), 6, 7 (2), 8 (2), 9 (2), 10, 15, 38, 41, 51, 85
100-yard rushing games (10) - 103, 104, 105, 109, 123, 131, 172, 178, 183, 199
TDs receiving (3) - 25, 37, 51
TDs passing (2) - 1, 19

TURNER, San Diego
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 14
100-yard rushing games (1) - 138

WASHINGTON, N.Y. Jets
TDs rushing (4) - 5, 15, 16, 20
100-yard rushing games (2) - 101, 129
100-yard receiving games (1) - 108

WATSON, Cincinnati
TDs rushing (1) - 8

WESTBROOK, Philadelphia
TDs rushing (7) - 1, 5, 6, 8, 12, 28, 71
100-yard rushing games (6) - 101, 102, 113, 117, 122, 124
TDs receiving (4) - 4, 8, 31, 52
100-yard receiving games (1) - 113

WILLIAMS, Tampa Bay
TDs rushing (1) - 4
100-yard rushing games (2) - 111, 122

WILLIAMS, Carolina
TDs rushing (1) - 3
100-yard rushing games (1) - 114
TDs receiving (1) - 35
100-yard receiving games (1) - 101

WIDE RECEIVERS

AVANT, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (1) - 5

BASKETT, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (2) - 87, 89
100-yard receiving games (2) - 112, 177

BATTLE, San Francisco
TDs receiving (3) - 4, 6, 9

BENNETT, Tennessee (St. Louis)
TDs receiving (3) - 18, 20, 32
100-yard receiving games (3) - 106, 113, 115

BERRIAN, Chicago
TDs receiving (6) - 8, 13, 34, 40, 41, 49
100-yard receiving games (2) - 104, 108

BOLDIN, Arizona
TDs receiving (4) - 6, 9, 26, 49
100-yard receiving games (4) - 112, 129, 136, 140

BOOKER, Miami
TDs receiving (6) - 5, 8 (2), 17, 19, 32
100-yard receiving games (3) - 103, 110, 115

BRADLEY, Chicago
TDs receiving (3) - 29, 57, 75

BRANCH, New Orleans
TDs receiving (1) - 7

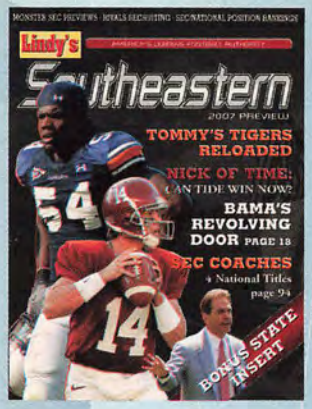
BRANCH, Seattle
TDs receiving (4) - 14, 19, 22, 38
100-yard receiving games (1) - 113

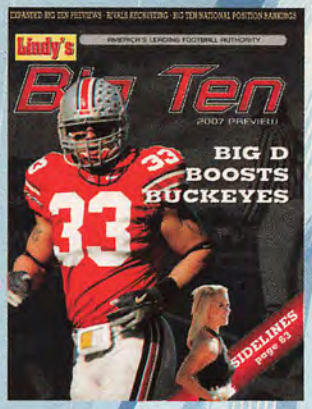
BROWN, New England (UFA)
TDs receiving (4) - 6, 7, 9, 10

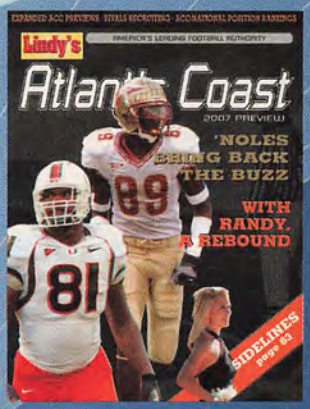
BROWN, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (8) - 3, 5, 7, 19, 23, 40 (2), 60
100-yard receiving games (2) - 106, 121
TDs rushing (1) - 15

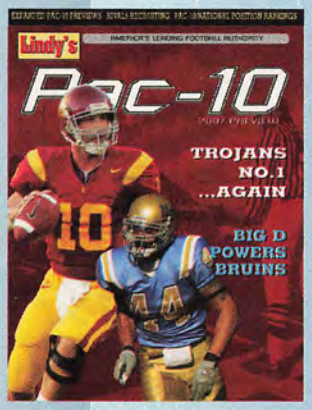
BRUCE, St. Louis
TDs receiving (3) - 1, 5, 10
100-yard receiving games (3) - 100, 105, 148

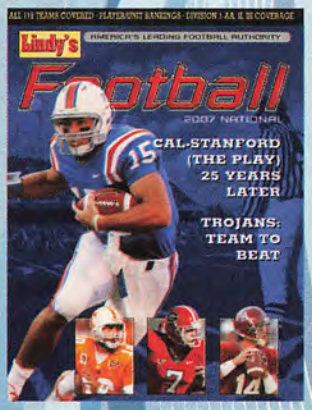
BRYANT, San Francisco (X)
TDs receiving (3) - 16, 48, 72
100-yard receiving games (2) - 114, 131

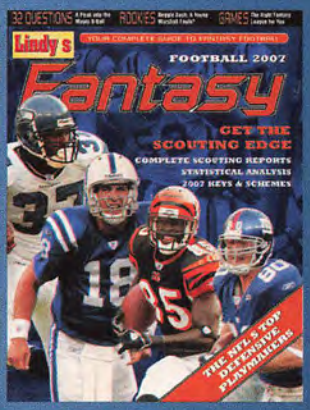


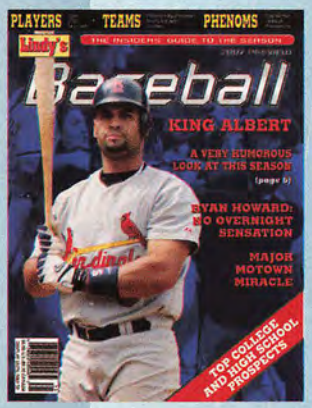












FOOTBALL ANNUALS

❑ PRO ❑ PAC 10 ❑ ACC ❑ NATIONAL COLLEGE
❑ SEC ❑ BIG TEN ❑ BIG 12 ❑ PRO FANTASY

NFL DRAFT GUIDE

❑ 2007

BASKETBALL ANNUALS

❑ PRO ❑ NATIONAL COLLEGE

BASEBALL ANNUALS

❑ SCOUTING ❑ FANTASY

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

❑ COLLECTOR'S EDITION

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

❑ COLLECTOR'S EDITION

INDIVIDUAL COPIES .....(Free Shipping) $6.99
BACK ISSUES $12.95
COMPLETE FOOTBALL SET – IN SLIP CASE (EXCLUDES FANTASY, DRAFT) $47.00
CANADIAN ORDERS ADD INDIVIDUAL $9.00 SETS $15.00
OVERSEAS ORDERS ADD INDIVIDUAL $11.00 SETS $25.00
(INTERNATIONAL ORDERS SHIP SURFACE - 4-6 WEEKS)

ORDER ANY 6 LINDY'S TITLES FOR ONLY $38 (FREE SHIPPING)

LINDY'S SPORTS ANNUALS
2100 CENTENNIAL DR. SUITE 100
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35216
205-871-1182/PHONE
205-871-1184/FAX

COPIES ACCEPTED

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

❑ CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED

❑ PLEASE CHARGE: ❑VISA ❑MASTER CARD ❑DISCOVER ❑AMERICAN EXPRESS

ACCOUNT # _____ EXP. _____

SIGNATURE _____

BURLESON, Seattle
TDs receiving (2) - 5, 12
TDs PR (1) - 90

BURRESS, N.Y. Giants
TDs receiving (10) - 2, 3, 5, 7, 25, 28, 31, 34, 50, 55
100-yard receiving games (2) - 114, 120

CALDWELL, New England
TDs receiving (4) - 6, 15, 54, 62
100-yard receiving games (2) - 112, 134

CARTER, Carolina
TDs receiving (3) - 4, 36, 42
100-yard receiving games (1) - 144

CARTER, N.Y. Giants (Cleveland)
TDs receiving (2) - 6, 25

CHAMBERS, Miami
TDs receiving (4) - 2, 16, 23, 24
100-yard receiving games (1) - 121

CLAYTON, Baltimore
TDs receiving (5) - 14, 35, 62, 65, 87
100-yard receiving games (4) - 101, 108, 112, 125

CLAYTON, Tampa Bay
TDs receiving (1) - 8

COLES, N.Y. Jets
TDs receiving (6) - 10, 12, 21, 22, 46, 58
100-yard receiving games (5) - 100, 106, 111, 144, 153

COLSTON, New Orleans
TDs receiving (8) - 2, 7, 12, 15, 25, 35, 47, 86
100-yard receiving games (4) - 123, 132, 163, 169

COPPER, New Orleans
TDs receiving (3) - 3, 27, 48

COTCHERY, N.Y. Jets
TDs receiving (6) - 8, 12, 22, 32, 33, 71
100-yard receiving games (2) - 110, 121

CRAYTON, Dallas
TDs receiving (4) - 4, 6, 30, 53
100-yard receiving games (1) - 104

CRIBBS, Cleveland
TDs KOR (1) - 92

CURRY, Oakland
TDs receiving (1) - 5
100-yard receiving games (1) - 106

CURTIS, St. Louis (Philadelphia)
TDs receiving (4) - 2, 3, 5, 6

DAVIS, Chicago
TDs receiving (2) - 15, 24

DRIVER, Green Bay
TDs receiving (8) - 1, 5, 9, 20, 34, 48, 68, 82
100-yard receiving games (3) - 153, 160, 191

EDWARDS, Cleveland
TDs receiving (6) - 4, 14, 19, 23, 45, 58
100-yard receiving games (3) - 110, 116, 137

ENGRAM, Seattle
TDs receiving (1) - 21

EVANS, Buffalo
TDs receiving (8) - 5, 21, 37, 43, 44, 77, 83 (2)
100-yard receiving games (3) - 107, 145, 265

FERGUSON, Green Bay
TDs receiving (1) - 4

FITZGERALD, Arizona
TDs receiving (6) - 5 (2), 6, 9, 11, 12
100-yard receiving games (2) - 133, 172

FLOYD, San Diego
TDs receiving (3) - 9, 31, 46
100-yard receiving games (1) - 109

FURREY, Detroit
TDs receiving (6) - 1, 5, 10, 13, 18, 20
100-yard receiving games (4) - 102, 107, 109, 123

GABRIEL, New England (Oakland)
TDs receiving (3) - 5, 8, 25

GAFFNEY, New England
TDs receiving (1) - 6

GALLOWAY, Tampa Bay
TDs receiving (7) - 4, 8, 17, 18, 34, 44, 64
100-yard receiving games (4) - 107, 110, 118, 161

GILMORE, San Francisco
TDs receiving (1) - 15

GLENN, Dallas
TDs receiving (6) - 2, 10, 13 (2), 30, 40
100-yard receiving games (2) - 109, 150

HACKETT, Seattle
TDs receiving (4) - 5, 8, 23 (2)
100-yard receiving games (1) - 104

HAGAN, Miami
TDs receiving (1) - 13

HALL, Kansas City (St. Louis)
TDs receiving (2) - 5, 13
TDs PR (1) - 60

HARRISON, Indianapolis
TDs receiving (12) - 1 (2), 3, 4 (3), 5, 7, 13, 27, 37, 68
100-yard receiving games (6) - 101, 112, 113, 127, 145, 172

HENDERSON, New Orleans
TDs receiving (5) - 26, 42, 45, 52, 76
100-yard receiving games (3) - 111, 158, 169
TDs rushing (1) - 11

HENRY, Cincinnati (suspended first 8 games)
TDs receiving (9) - 3, 7 (2), 8, 10, 11, 16, 55, 66
100-yard receiving games (2) - 113, 124

HESTER, Chicago
TDs KOR (2) - 94, 96
TDs PR (3) - 45, 83, 84

HILLIARD, Tampa Bay
TDs receiving (2) - 6, 44

HOLMES, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (2) - 20, 67
100-yard receiving games (1) - 124
TDs PR (1) - 65

HOLT, St. Louis
TDs receiving (10) - 1, 3, 6 (2), 9 (2), 10, 15, 16, 67
100-yard receiving games (4) - 102, 115, 120, 154

HORN, New Orleans (Atlanta)
TDs receiving (4) - 14, 32, 48, 72
100-yard receiving games (2) - 110, 126

HOUSHMANDZADEH, Cincinnati
TDs receiving (9) - 1, 6, 9, 10, 20, 26, 30, 33, 40
100-yard receiving games (3) - 102, 106, 118

JACKSON, New England
TDs receiving (3) - 10, 13, 35

JACKSON, San Diego
TDs receiving (6) - 5, 9, 12, 14, 33, 37

JACKSON, Seattle (San Francisco)
TDs receiving (10) - 2, 3, 4 (2), 12, 41, 42, 49 (2), 72
100-yard receiving games (2) - 127, 136

JENKINS, Atlanta
TDs receiving (7) - 9, 12, 13, 17, 22, 36, 34

JENNINGS, Green Bay
TDs receiving (3) - 22, 46, 75
100-yard receiving games (2) - 101, 105

JOHNSON, Arizona
TDs receiving (4) - 2, 11, 40, 56

JOHNSON, Carolina (X)
TDs receiving (4) - 1, 4, 17, 31
100-yard receiving games (1) - 106
TDs rushing (1) - 4

JOHNSON, Cincinnati
TDs receiving (7) - 4, 8, 12, 41, 51, 60, 74
100-yard receiving games (4) - 101, 123, 190, 260

JOHNSON, Houston
TDs receiving (5) - 3 (2), 10 (2), 35
100-yard receiving games (4) - 101 (2), 106, 152

JONES, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (4) - 3 (2), 15, 33
100-yard receiving games (2) - 104, 128

JONES, New Orleans
TDs receiving (1) - 27

JONES, Tennessee
TDs receiving (4) - 3, 9, 14, 29
100-yard receiving games (1) - 101

JUREVICIUS, Cleveland
TDs receiving (3) - 3, 5, 6
100-yard receiving games (1) - 111

KENNISON, Kansas City
TDs receiving (5) - 6, 21, 22, 34, 35
100-yard receiving games (3) - 117, 132, 144

LELIE, Atlanta (San Francisco)
TDs receiving (1) - 8

LEWIS, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (2) - 30, 45

MARSHALL, Denver
TDs receiving (2) - 9, 71

MARTIN, Green Bay
TDs receiving (1) - 36
100-yard receiving games (1) - 118

MASON, Baltimore
TDs receiving (2) - 11, 36
100-yard receiving games (1) - 132

McCAREINS, N.Y. Jets
TDs receiving (1) - 44

McDONALD, St. Louis (Detroit)
TDs receiving (1) - 7

McMULLEN, Minnesota
TDs receiving (2) - 9, 40

MOORE, Baltimore
TDs receiving (1) - 4

MOOREHEAD, Indianapolis
TDs receiving (1) - 9

MOSS, Oakland (New England)
TDs receiving (3) - 5, 22, 32
100-yard receiving games (1) - 129

MOSS, Washington
TDs receiving (6) - 8, 31, 42, 48, 55, 68
100-yard receiving games (3) - 103, 123, 138

MOULDS, Houston (X)
TDs receiving (1) - 25

MUHAMMAD, Chicago
TDs receiving (5) - 5, 9, 10, 14, 30
100-yard receiving games (3) - 102, 118, 123

OWENS, Dallas
TDs receiving (13) - 2, 3, 4, 7 (2), 8, 14, 21 (2), 34, 51 (2), 56
100-yard receiving games (3) - 107 (2), 117

PARKER, Kansas City
TDs receiving (1) - 15

PARRISH, Buffalo
TDs receiving (2) - 44, 51
100-yard receiving games (1) - 104
TDs PR (1) - 82

PRICE, Buffalo
TDs receiving (3) - 6, 8, 15

RANDLE EL, Washington
TDs receiving (3) - 4, 23, 34
TDs passing (1) - 48
TDs PR (1) - 87

REED, Buffalo
TDs receiving (2) - 4, 27

ROBINSON, Minnesota (Detroit)
TDs receiving (4) - 17, 20, 29, 40

SMITH, Carolina
TDs receiving (8) - 8, 9 (2), 15, 22, 36, 62, 72
100-yard receiving games (4) - 112, 126, 149, 189

SMITH, Denver
TDs receiving (3) - 4, 10, 16

STALLWORTH, Philadelphia (New England)
TDs receiving (5) - 3, 20, 30, 42, 84
100-yard receiving games (3) - 111, 139, 141

STOKLEY, Indianapolis (Denver)
TDs receiving (1) - 10

TAYLOR, Minnesota (UFA)
TDs receiving (3) - 3 (2), 30

THRASH, Washington
TDs receiving (1) - 5

TOOMER, N.Y. Giants
TDs receiving (3) - 13, 22, 37
100-yard receiving games (1) - 137

TYREE, N.Y. Giants
TDs receiving (2) - 3, 9

WADE, Tennessee (Minnesota)
TDs receiving (2) - 20, 22

WALKER, Denver
TDs receiving (8) - 10 (2), 15, 32, 39 (2), 54, 83
100-yard receiving games (3) - 107, 130, 134

WALTERS, Arizona (UFA)
TDs receiving (2) - 2, 17

WARD, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (6) - 7, 11, 13, 17, 37, 70
100-yard receiving games (2) - 127, 171

WASHINGTON, Cincinnati (New England)
TDs receiving (1) - 22

WASHINGTON, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (4) - 10, 27, 47, 49

WAYNE, Indianapolis
TDs receiving (9) - 1, 2, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 23, 51
100-yard receiving games (5) - 110, 111, 122, 135, 138

WELKER, Miami (New England)
TDs receiving (1) - 6

WHITE, Atlanta
100-yard receiving games (1) - 104

WILFORD, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (2) - 11, 22

WILKINS, Indianapolis (UFA)
TDs PR (1) - 82

WILLIAMS, Baltimore
TDs receiving (2) - 25, 77
100-yard receiving games (1) - 100

WILLIAMS, JACKSONVILLE
TDs receiving (4) - 6, 16, 21, 33

M. WILLIAMS, Detroit (Oakland)
TDs receiving (1) - 21

R. WILLIAMS, Detroit
TDs receiving (7) - 2, 15, 20, 22, 28, 42, 60
100-yard receiving games (6) - 104, 126, 138 (2), 139, 161

WILLIAMSON, Minnesota
100-yard receiving games (1) - 102

WILSON, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (1) - 38

TIGHT ENDS

ALEXANDER, Denver
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 7

ANDERSON, Oakland
TDs receiving (2) - 2, 8

BAKER, N.Y. Jets
TDs receiving (4) - 1 (3), 12

BECHT, Tampa Bay
TDs receiving (1) - 2

BERGEN, Arizona (X)
TDs receiving (1) - 7

BRUENER, Houston
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 2

BYRD, St. Louis
TDs receiving (1) - 27

CAMPBELL, Detroit
TDs receiving (4) - 2, 8, 12, 23

CLARK, Chicago
TDs receiving (6) - 1, 2, 12, 24, 27, 31
100-yard receiving games (1) - 125

CLARK, Indianapolis
TDs receiving (4) - 1, 2, 4, 30

CONWELL, New Orleans (X)
TDs receiving (1) - 9

COOLEY, Washington
TDs receiving (6) - 3, 9, 13, 18, 24, 66

CRUMPLER, Atlanta
TDs receiving (8) - 1, 3, 9, 16 (2), 19, 22, 31
100-yard receiving games (1) - 117

DANIELS, Houston
TDs receiving (5) - 1, 2 (2), 14, 33

DAVIS, San Francisco
TDs receiving (3) - 8, 31, 52

DINKINS, Cleveland
TDs receiving (1) - 3

DUGAN, Minnesota
TDs receiving (1) - 3

FLETCHER, Indianapolis
TDs receiving (2) - 2, 15

GATES, San Diego
TDs receiving (9) - 1, 4, 7, 11, 12, 19, 22, 33, 57
100-yard receiving games (1) - 104

GILMORE, Chicago
TDs receiving (2) - 3, 5

GONZALEZ, Kansas City
TDs receiving (5) - 3, 9 (2), 23, 25
100-yard receiving games (3) - 105, 116, 138

GRAHAM, New England (Denver)
TDs receiving (2) - 2, 3

HEAP, Baltimore
TDs receiving (6) - 1, 3,6, 7, 10, 20

HEIDEN, Cleveland
TDs receiving (2) - 3, 6

HELLER, Seattle
TDs receiving (1) - 10

JOHNSON, San Francisco (New Orleans)
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 15

KELLY, Cincinnati
TDs receiving (1) - 16

KING, Carolina
TDs receiving (1) - 1

KLOPFENSTEIN, St. Louis
TDs receiving (1) - 16

LEWIS, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (1) - 1

MADSEN, Oakland
TDs receiving (1) - 2

MANGUM, Carolina (retired)
TDs receiving (1) - 7

MANUMALEUNA, San Diego
TDs receiving (3) - 1, 5, 9

MARTIN, Green Bay (Miami)
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 13

McMICHAEL, Miami (St. Louis)
TDs receiving (3) - 5, 6, 7

MILLER, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (5) - 1 (2), 2, 16, 87
100-yard receiving games (1) - 101

NEUFELD, Buffalo
TDs receiving (1) - 4

OWENS, Minnesota
TDs receiving (1) - 16

PEELLE, Miami
TDs receiving (1) - 11

ROYAL, Buffalo
TDs receiving (3) - 5, 6, 33

SCAIFE, Tennessee
TDs receiving (2) - 4, 27
TDs rushing (1) - 13

SCHEFFLER, Denver
TDs receiving (4) - 1, 9, 11, 28

SCHOBEL, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (2) - 14, 25

SHOCKEY, N.Y. Giants
TDs receiving (7) - 2 (2), 3, 4, 13, 15, 17

SMITH, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (5) - 1 (2), 4, 5, 10
100-yard receiving games (1) - 111

SMITH, Tampa Bay
TDs receiving (3) - 2, 3, 9

STEVENS, Seattle (Tampa Bay)
TDs receiving (4) - 2, 3, 15, 22

STEWART, Cincinnati
TDs receiving (1) - 5

THOMAS, New England
TDs receiving (1) - 22

TROUPE, Tennessee
TDs receiving (2) - 14, 17

TUMAN, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (1) - 2

WATSON, New England
TDs receiving (3) - 2, 8, 9

WIGGINS, Minnesota (Jacksonville)
TDs receiving (1) - 15

WILCOX, Baltimore
TDs receiving (3) - 1, 4, 5

WILSON, Kansas City
TDs receiving (3) - 6, 11 (2)

WINSLOW, Cleveland
TDs receiving (3) - 2, 18, 30

WITTEN, Dallas
TDs receiving (1) - 3

WRIGHSTER, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (3) - 1, 14, 16

YODER, Washington
TDs receiving (1) - 4

QUARTERBACKS

ANDERSON, Cleveland
TDs passing (5) - 3 (2), 6, 14, 45

BATCH, Pittsburgh
TDs passing (5) - 7, 17, 27, 70, 87

BOLLER, Baltimore
TDs passing (5) - 7, 9, 14, 62, 77

BLEDSOE, Dallas (retired)
TDs passing (7) - 3, 4, 13 (2), 21 (2), 40
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 7

BRADY, New England
TDs passing (24) - 1, 2 (2), 3, 5, 6 (2), 7, 8 (2), 9 (2), 10 (2), 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, 25, 35, 43, 54, 62
300-yard passing games (3) - 305, 320, 372

BREES, New Orleans
TDs passing (26) - 2, 3 (2), 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 27, 15, 25, 26, 27, 32, 35, 42, 45, 47, 48 (2), 52, 61, 72, 76, 86
300-yard passing games (8) - 314, 349 (2), 353, 383, 384, 398, 510

BROOKS, Oakland (X)
TDs passing (3) - 2 (2), 5

BRUNELL, Washington
TDs passing (8) - 5, 8, 13, 18, 23, 24, 55, 68
300-yard passing games (1) - 329

BULGER, St. Louis
TDs passing (24) - 1 (2), 2, 3 (2), 5 (2), 9, 6 (4), 7, 9, 10 (4), 15, 16 (2), 27, 64, 67
300-yard passing games (8) - 309, 314, 327, 328, 354, 356, 360, 388

CAMPBELL, Washington
TDs passing (10) - 1, 3, 4 (2), 7, 9, 31, 34, 42, 66

CARR, Houston (Carolina)
TDs passing (11) - 1, 2 (2), 3 (3), 10, 14, 25, 33, 35
300-yard passing games (1) - 323
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 2

COLLINS, Tennessee
TDs passing (1) - 27

CULPEPPER, Miami
TDs passing (2) - 16, 23
TDs rushing (1) - 5

CUTLER, Denver
TDs passing (9) - 1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 28, 39, 54, 71

DELHOMME, Carolina
TDs passing (17) - 1, 4 (2), 7, 8, 9 (2), 15, 17, 20, 22, 31, 35, 36, 42, 62, 72
300-yard passing games (1) - 365

FAVRE, Green Bay
TDs passing (18) - 1 (2), 4, 5 (2), 6, 9, 10, 13, 20, 22, 34, 36, 46, 48, 68, 75, 82
300-yard passing games (3) - 340 (2), 347
TDs rushing (1) - 1

FEELEY, Philadelphia
TDs passing (3) - 5, 14, 89
300-yard passing games (1) - 321

FRYE, Cleveland
TDs passing (10) - 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 18, 19, 23, 30, 58
TDs rushing (3) - 1 (2), 2

GARCIA, Philadelphia (Tampa Bay)
TDs passing (10) - 1, 3 (2), 5, 8, 10, 19, 25, 30, 40
300-yard passing games (1) - 312

GARRARD, Jacksonville
TDs passing (10) - 1, 3 (2), 11, 14, 15, 16, 22, 26, 33

GRADKOWSKI, Tampa Bay
TDs passing (9) - 2 (2), 3, 6, 8, 17, 18, 34, 44

GRAY, Jacksonville
TDs rushing (2) - 9, 17

GREEN, Kansas City
TDs passing (7) - 5, 6 (2), 9, 22, 23, 35

GRIESE, Chicago
TDs passing (1) - 75

GROSSMAN, Chicago
TDs passing (23) - 1, 2, 3, 5 (2), 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 24 (2), 27, 29, 30, 31, 34, 40, 41, 49, 57
300-yard passing games (1) - 339

HARRINGTON, Miami (Atlanta)
TDs passing (12) - 2, 5 (2), 6, 8 (2), 11, 13, 17, 19, 24, 32
300-yard passing games (1) - 414

HASSELBECK, Seattle
TDs passing (18) - 2, 3, 4 (2), 5 (2), 10, 12 (2), 14, 19, 21, 22, 23 (2), 42, 49, 72

HUARD, Kansas City
TDs passing (11) - 3, 9 (3), 11 (2), 13, 15, 21, 25, 34
300-yard passing games (1) - 312

JACKSON, Minnesota
TDs passing (2) - 3, 35
TDs rushing (1) - 1

JOHNSON, Minnesota (Dallas)
TDs passing (9) - 3 (2), 9, 17, 20, 29, 30, 40 (2)
TDs rushing (1) - 3

KITNA, Detroit
TDs passing (21) - 1, 2 (2), 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18, 20 (2), 21, 22, 23 (2), 28, 37, 42, 60
300-yard passing games (4) - 306, 314, 321, 342
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 8

LEFTWICH, Jacksonville
TDs passing (7) - 1, 6, 7, 16, 21, 33, 51
TDs rushing (2) - 3, 4

LEINART, Arizona
TDs passing (11) - 2, 5 (2), 6, 9, 11 (2), 17, 26, 49, 56
300-yard passing games (1) - 405
TDs rushing (2) - 3, 9

LEMON, Miami
TDs passing (2) - 6, 7

LOSMAN, Buffalo
TDs passing (19) - 4 (2), 5 (2), 6 (2), 8, 15, 21, 27, 33, 37, 43, 44 (2), 51, 77, 83 (2)
300-yard passing games (2) - 328, 340
TDs rushing (1) - 12

MANNING, Indianapolis
TDs passing (31) - 1 (4), 2 (4), 3, 4 (4), 5 (2), 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 27, 30, 37, 51, 68
300-yard passing games (6) - 313, 326, 342, 345, 351, 400
TDs rushing (4) - 1 (2), 2, 11

MANNING, N.Y. Giants
TDs passing (24) - 2 (3), 3 (3), 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13 (2), 15, 17, 22, 25 (2), 28, 31, 34, 37, 50, 55
300-yard passing games (1) - 371

FANTASY FOOTBALL

MARTIN, New Orleans
TDs passing (1) - 7

McNABB, Philadelphia
TDs passing (18) - 1, 4 (2), 5, 7, 12, 20, 23, 30, 31, 40, 42, 45, 52, 55, 60, 84, 87
300-yard passing games (4) - 302, 314, 350, 354
TDs rushing (3) - 1, 6, 15

McNAIR, Baltimore
TDs passing (16) - 1 (2), 3, 4 (2), 5, 6, 10, 11, 20, 25, 30, 35, 36, 65, 87
300-yard passing games (1) - 373
TDs rushing (1) - 5

PALMER, Cincinnati
TDs passing (28) - 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (2), 8 (2), 9, 10 (2), 11, 12, 16 (2), 20, 22, 26, 30, 33, 40, 41, 51, 55, 60, 66, 74
300-yard passing games (2) - 352, 440

PENNINGTON, N.Y. Jets
TDs passing (17) - 1 (3), 8, 10, 12 (3), 21, 22 (2), 32, 33, 44, 46, 58, 71
300-yard passing games (3) - 306, 319, 339

PLUMMER, Denver (Tampa Bay/retired)
TDs passing (11) - 1 (2), 4, 9, 10 (2), 15, 16, 32, 39, 83
TDs rushing (1) - 1

RATTAY, Tampa Bay (Tennessee)
TDs passing (4) - 4, 9, 44, 64)

RIVERS, San Diego
TDs passing (22) - 1, 4, 5 (2), 7, 9 (3), 11, 12 (2), 14, 22, 25, 31, 33 (2), 37 (2), 46, 51, 57
300-yard passing games (2) - 334, 338

ROETHLISBERGER, Pittsburgh
TDs passing (18) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 4, 10, 11, 13 (2), 15, 16, 20, 25, 37, 38, 47, 49, 67
300-yard passing games (2) - 301, 433
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 2

ROMO, Dallas
TDs passing (19) - 1, 2 (3), 3, 4, 6, 7 (2), 8, 10, 14, 30 (2), 34, 51 (2), 53, 56
300-yard passing games (3) - 306, 308, 321

ROSENFELS, Houston
TDs passing (3) - 1, 2, 10

SCHAUB, Atlanta (Houston)
TDs passing (1) - 9

SIMMS, Tampa Bay
TDs passing (1) - 8
300-yard passing games (1) - 313
TDs rushing (1) - 2

SMITH, San Francisco
TDs passing (16) - 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 15 (2), 16, 20, 31, 32, 33, 48, 52, 72
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 18

TESTAVERDE, New England (UFA)
TDs passing (1) - 6

TUIASOSOPO, Oakland (N.Y. Jets)
TDs passing (1) - 8

VICK, Atlanta
TDs passing (20) - 1 (2), 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 (2), 9, 12, 13, 17, 16 (2), 19, 22 (2), 26, 31, 34
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 22
100-yard rushing games (3) - 101, 127, 166

WALLACE, Seattle
TDs passing (8) - 2, 3, 8, 15, 22, 38, 41, 49

WALTER, Oakland
TDs passing (3) - 5, 22, 32

WARNER, Arizona
TDs passing (6) - 2, 6, 7, 9, 12, 40
300-yard passing games (2) - 301, 356

WEINKE, Carolina (X)
TDs passing (2) - 1, 36
300-yard passing games (1) - 423

WHITEHURST, San Diego
TDs rushing (1) - 14

YOUNG, Tennessee
TDs passing (12) - 3, 4, 9, 14 (2), 17, 18, 20 (2), 22, 29, 32
TDs rushing (7) - 1, 2, 19, 20, 28, 36, 39

KICKERS

AKERS, Philadelphia
FGs (18) - 21 (2), 25 (4), 27, 28 (2), 37 (2), 38, 40, 41, 42 (2), 45, 47
PATs (48)

ANDERSEN, Atlanta (UFA)
FGs (20) - 21, 22, 23, 25, 26 (2), 28, 30, 32, 34 (2), 36, 39, 40 (3), 41, 42, 44, 45
PATs (27)

BIRONAS, Tennessee
FGs (22) - 20, 21, 22 (2), 25 (2), 26, 27 (3), 30 (2), 32, 33 (2), 36, 39, 41, 42, 47, 49, 60
PATs (32)

BROWN, Houston
FGs (19) - 19, 21, 25, 27, 28, 32, 34, 39, 41, 42 (2), 43 (2), 46, 47 (2), 48 (2), 49
PATs (26)

BROWN, Seattle
FGs (25) - 20 (3), 23 (3), 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 33, 35, 37, 38, 41, 42 (2), 44, 45, 49 (2), 50, 51, 54
PATs (36)

BRYANT, Tampa Bay
FGs (17) - 22, 23, 24 (2), 26, 27, 28 (2), 30, 31, 37, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 62
PATs (22)

CARNEY, New Orleans (X)
FGs (23) - 19, 20 (3), 21 (2), 24, 25 (2), 26, 31 (2), 32, 33, 37, 38, 39, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 51
PATs (46)

DAWSON, Cleveland
FGs (21) - 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 30 (2), 32, 33, 35 (2), 36 (2), 37, 41, 42, 43 (2), 47 (2), 51
PATs (25)

ELAM, Denver
FGs (27) - 21, 22 (5), 23 (2), 24 (2), 30 (2), 31, 32 (2), 33, 34, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 49 (2), 51
PATs (34)

FEELY, N.Y. Giants (Miami)
FGs (23) - 21, 22, 23 (2), 24 (2), 29, 31 (3), 32 (3), 34 (2), 35, 39, 40 (3), 46 (2), 47
PATs (38)

GOSTKOWSKI, New England
FGs (20) - 20, 21 (2), 23, 24, 25, 26 (2), 27, 28, 31 (3), 32 (2), 35, 36, 48, 49, 52
PATs (43)

GOULD, Chicago
FGs (32) - 20 (2), 23, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32 (3), 36 (4), 38 (3), 39 (2), 40, 41 (3), 42, 43 (2), 44, 45, 46, 49 (2)
PATs (47)

GRAHAM, Cincinnati
FGs (25) - 21 (2), 23 (2), 24, 26, 27 (2), 28, 30, 31, 34, 36, 37 (4), 40, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 51 (2)
PATs (40)

GRAMATICA, Indianapolis/Dallas
FGs (7) - 20, 24, 35, 39, 41, 46, 48
PATs (23)

HALL, Washington (X)
FGs (9) - 22, 27 (2), 37 (2), 39 (2), 44, 46
PATs (9)

HANSON, Detroit
FGs (29) - 19, 20, 23 (2), 25 (3), 26 (2), 28, 29 (3), 32, 33 (2), 36, 37, 38, 40, 42 (2), 43, 44, 45, 49, 52, 53 (2)
PATs (30)

JANIKOWSKI, Oakland
FGs (18) - 19, 20, 25, 31, 33 (2), 34, 35 (2), 36 (2), 37, 41 (2), 47, 51, 53, 55
PATs (16)

KAEDING, San Diego
FGs (26) - 22 (2), 24, 28 (2), 29 (2), 30, 31 (3), 33, 34 (2), 35 (3), 39, 40, 42, 44 (2), 46, 47 (2), 54
PATs (58)

KASAY, Carolina
FGs (24) - 19 (2), 21 (2), 24, 25, 26, 28, 31, 34, 37 (2), 40, 42 (2), 45 (2), 46 (2), 49, 50, 51 (2), 54
PATs (28)

KOENEN, Atlanta
FGs (3) - 25, 32, 51
PATs (4)

LINDELL, Buffalo
FGs (23) - 21 (3), 22, 24, 28 (3), 30, 33, 34, 36 (2), 40 (2), 42, 43 (2), 45 (2), 46, 53 (2)
PATs (33)

LONGWELL, Minnesota
FGs (21) - 19 (2), 20, 21, 22, 23, 26 (3), 30 (2), 31 (2), 33, 34, 35, 37, 40, 41, 46, 49
PATs (27)
TDs passing (1) - 16

MARE, Miami (New Orleans)
FGs (26) - 20, 21, 22 (2), 25, 26, 27, 28 (2), 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40 (4), 42 (3), 44, 45, 52
PATs (22)

NEDNEY, San Francisco
FGs (29) - 18, 19, 20, 22, 23 (3), 24 (2), 25, 28, 29 (2), 30, 32 (2), 36 (2), 39 (3), 42, 44, 46 (2), 47, 48, 49, 51
PATs (29)

NOVAK, Washington (Chicago)
FGs (5) - 28, 32, 42, 45, 47
PATs (10)

NUGENT, N.Y. Jets
FGs (24) - 18, 20, 22 (2), 23, 24, 25, 27, 30 (2), 33 (3), 34 (2), 35 (2), 38, 40, 42, 45, 47, 52, 54
PATs (34)

RACKERS, Arizona
FGs (28) - 20 (2), 21, 23, 25, 28 (3), 29 (3), 30, 32 (2), 36 (2), 37, 38 (3), 39, 40, 41 (2), 43, 45 (2), 49
PATs (32)

RAYNER, Green Bay
FGs (26) - 20, 21, 23 (2), 24 (4), 25, 27, 29, 32, 34 (3), 36, 38, 42 (2), 44 (3), 46 (2), 49, 54
PATs (31)

REED, Pittsburgh
FGs (20) - 19, 23, 26, 28 (2), 29 (2), 32 (2), 35, 36, 37, 39 (3), 43, 44, 45, 46, 50
PATs (41)

SCOBEE, Jacksonville
FGs (26) - 21, 23, 24, 27 (2), 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 39 (2), 40 (2), 41, 42, 43 (3), 44, 46 (2), 47, 48 (3)
PATs (41)

SMITH, Indianapolis
FGs (0)
PATs (1)

STOVER, Baltimore
FGs (28) - 20, 22, 23 (2), 24, 25 (2), 26 (2), 27, 29 (2), 32, 33, 35, 36, 37 (3), 38, 39, 40 (2), 41, 42, 43 (2), 52
PATs (37)

SUISHAM, Dallas/Washington
FGs (9) - 22, 31, 32 (2), 35, 37 (2), 45, 52
PATs (14)

TYNES, Kansas City
FGs (24) - 19, 21, 22, 24 (2), 27, 28, 29 (4), 32, 34, 37, 38, 40, 42, 45 (3), 49 (2), 52, 53
PATs (35)

VANDERJAGT, Dallas (X)
FGs (13) - 21, 22 (2), 24, 26, 28, 30, 33, 38 (2), 39, 43, 50
PATs (33)

VINATIERI, Indianapolis
FGs (25) - 19, 20, 23, 26, 30 (3), 31 (2), 32 (2), 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44 (2), 46, 47, 48 (2)
PATs (38)

WILKINS, St. Louis
FGs (32) - 19, 20, 21 (2), 24 (3), 26 (3), 27, 29, 31, 34 (2), 35, 37, 38, 40 (2), 41, 42 (3), 46, 47 (2), 48, 49, 51 (2), 53
PATs (35)

DEFENSE / SPECIAL TEAMS TOUCHDOWNS

Chicago (9); Tennessee (8); Minnesota (7); Baltimore (6); Buffalo, Dallas, Green Bay, Philadelphia (5); Arizona, Oakland (4); Cleveland, Houston, Miami, New Orleans, N.Y. Giants, N.Y. Jets, Pittsburgh, San Diego, Seattle, Tampa Bay (3); Atlanta, Carolina, Denver, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Kansas City, St. Louis, San Francisco, Washington (2); Cincinnati, Detroit, New England (1)

KEEPING THE FAITH

BY FRANK SCHWAB

TRAGEDY STRIKES BRONCOS...TWICE

As the Denver Broncos were coping with the shock and grief of losing a 24-year-old teammate to a tragic death, it happened again.

On Jan. 1, popular cornerback Darrent Williams was shot and killed. On Feb. 24, running back Damien Nash collapsed and died at his home, shortly after playing in a charity basketball game. Both were 24 years old.

In their first 47 seasons, the Broncos never had an active player pass away. Two deaths in two months caused enormous heartache for many in the organization.

"You can't say what it's like, first losing a member of your family, and then losing a second member," said assistant defensive backs coach Ronnie Bradford. "It makes you numb, like, is this for real?"

Wide receiver Javon Walker might have been under the toughest strain. He was with Williams when Williams was killed. There was an argument at a nightclub where they were, and later shots were fired into the limousine Williams rented for the night. Williams was hit in the neck and died quickly. About 10 hours after Williams' death, Walker arrived at the Broncos' facility with blood on his shirt.

Most of the organization's players, coaches and executives attended Williams' funeral a few days later. Walker, who was dealing with strong feelings of grief, didn't go.

"He went through a tragic experience," coach Mike Shanahan said two days after Williams' death. "A lot of times when somebody has that happen to them they wonder why it happened to him, to Darrent and not him. That's just human nature."

Walker talked to counselors and cornerback Champ Bailey spent a lot of time with him, trying to work through the anguish. Bailey, who played alongside and mentored Williams for two years, helped Walker, but also found his own comfort in being with his teammate.

"I don't have all the answers," Bailey said. "The best thing is to just be there. I don't know what to say all the time; I don't know how to say it, but I think being around each other definitely helped both of us."

Walker got a lot of attention, but everyone in the organization was affected by the deaths. Both players were well liked. Nash was quiet, but upbeat. He started the 2006 season as a practice squad player after he was picked up from Tennessee, was promoted in midseason and had a good game against San Diego, gaining 88 total yards.

He put together a basketball game in his hometown of St. Louis to benefit the Darris Nash Find a Heart Foundation. The charity was set up to help his older brother, who collapsed after playing basketball two years earlier and needed a heart transplant. Nash had no signs of duress when he was hanging out at home after the game, but he suddenly collapsed.

"It's tough, that's all I can tell you," running backs coach Bobby Turner said. "You're existing and you still have to go on."

Williams was one of the most popular players in the Broncos' locker room. He quickly proved himself as a player his rookie season, and his engaging mix of confidence and affability won over everyone in the locker room.

His popularity was evident at the funeral in Fort Worth, Tex., which was attended by thousands of mourners. Many Broncos' players choked up with emotion as they talked about Williams.

"He was like a son to me," said Keith Burns, who retired as a linebacker this season to become an assistant coach. "He came into the locker room bright eyed and bushy-tailed, and all he wanted to do was play."

"He wasn't just liked, but he was loved by his teammates," owner Pat Bowlen said.

Both players have been replaced on the roster. Dre' Bly was acquired in a trade with Detroit and will take the starting spot Williams had for two years. Denver signed free-agent running back Travis Henry less than a month after Nash passed away.

But can the Broncos move on emotionally? The players say they won't forget either late teammate, not that it would be possible. The team has promised to have tributes to the players during the season, although they didn't immediately announce what they were.

Players started their own tributes when they reported to the team's headquarters for the start of the off-season conditioning program in early April. Many displayed pictures and the names of Nash and Williams in their lockers.

The team hopes to honor Williams on the field this season. At Williams' funeral, Bowlen told the congregation about something Williams' mother Rosalind said to the team at a private memorial earlier that week.

"She said the best thing we could do as an organization for him — and I'm not saying this to motivate my team — she said, 'Win Super Bowl XLII,'" Bowlen said. "That's the last time you'll hear me say it. We'll see if we can do it." ■

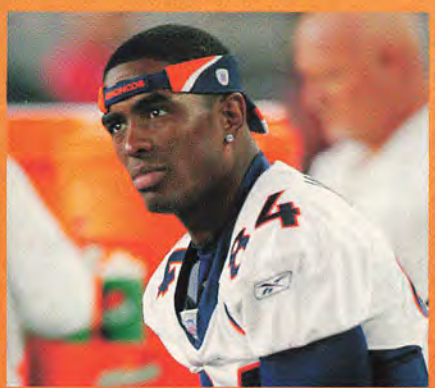


Photo by Paul Spinelli/Getty Images

Javon Walker

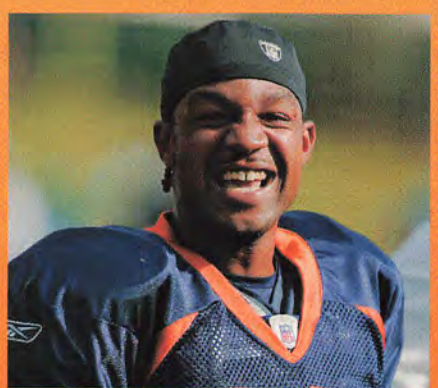


Photo by Brian Bahr/Getty Images

Darrent Williams

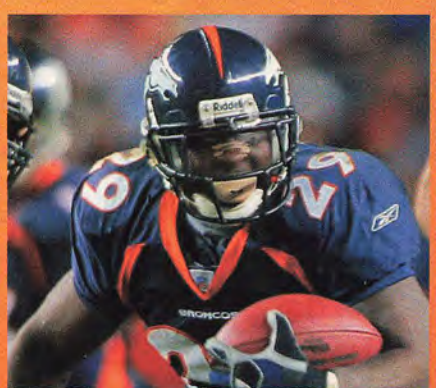


Photo by Doug Pensinger/Getty Images

Damien Nash

NFL SCHEDULES

Wrangler

ALL TIMES LOCAL

PRESEASON

FIRST WEEK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

New Orleans vs. Pittsburgh at Canton (NFLN)	8:00

SECOND WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9

Cincinnati at Detroit	7:30
Indianapolis at Dallas (FOX)	7:00

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

Atlanta at N.Y. Jets	7:00
Buffalo at New Orleans (CBS)	7:00
New England at Tampa Bay	7:30
St. Louis at Minnesota	7:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

Arizona at Oakland	7:00
Carolina at N.Y. Giants	8:00
Chicago at Houston	7:00
Green Bay at Pittsburgh	7:30
Jacksonville at Miami	7:30
Kansas City at Cleveland	7:30
Washington at Tennessee (NFLN)	7:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

Seattle at San Diego (NBC)	5:15

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

Denver at San Francisco (ESPN)	5:00
Philadelphia at Baltimore	7:00

THIRD WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

Miami at Kansas City (ESPN)	7:00

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

Atlanta at Buffalo	7:00
Carolina at Philadelphia	7:00
Minnesota at N.Y. Jets (FOX)	8:00
Tennessee at New England	8:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Denver at Dallas	7:00
Detroit at Cleveland	7:00
Houston at Arizona	1:00
New Orleans at Cincinnati	7:30
Oakland at San Francisco	7:00
Pittsburgh at Washington	8:00
San Diego at St. Louis (CBS)	7:00
Seattle at Green Bay	7:00
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville	7:30

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

N.Y. Giants at Baltimore (NBC)	8:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

Chicago at Indianapolis (ESPN)	7:00

FOURTH WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Jacksonville at Green Bay (FOX)	7:00
New Orleans at Kansas City	7:30

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

New England at Carolina (CBS)	8:00
St. Louis at Oakland	7:00
Tennessee at Buffalo	7:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

Baltimore at Washington	8:00
Cleveland at Denver	7:00
Dallas at Houston	7:00
Detroit at Indianapolis	7:00
Minnesota at Seattle	6:00
N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants	8:00
San Diego at Arizona	7:00
San Francisco at Chicago	7:00
Tampa Bay at Miami	7:30

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh (NBC)	8:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 27

Cincinnati at Atlanta (ESPN)	8:00

FIFTH WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

Arizona at Denver	7:00
Buffalo at Detroit	7:00
Cleveland at Chicago	7:00
Dallas at Minnesota	7:00
Green Bay at Tennessee	7:00
Houston at Tampa Bay	8:00
Kansas City at St. Louis	7:00
Miami at New Orleans	7:00
N.Y. Giants at New England	7:30
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia	7:30
Oakland at Seattle	7:00
Pittsburgh at Carolina	8:00
San Francisco at San Diego	7:00
Washington at Jacksonville	7:30

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

Baltimore at Atlanta	7:30
Indianapolis at Cincinnati	7:30

REGULAR SEASON

FIRST WEEK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

New Orleans at Indianapolis	8:30

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Denver at Buffalo	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cleveland	1:00
Philadelphia at Green Bay	12:00
Kansas City at Houston	12:00
Tennessee at Jacksonville	1:00
Atlanta at Minnesota	12:00
New England at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Carolina at St. Louis	12:00
Miami at Washington	1:00
Detroit at Oakland	1:15
Chicago at San Diego	1:15
Tampa Bay at Seattle	1:15
N.Y. Giants at Dallas	7:15

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Baltimore at Cincinnati	7:00
Arizona at San Francisco	7:15

SECOND WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Houston at Carolina	1:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland	1:00
Atlanta at Jacksonville	1:00
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Buffalo at Pittsburgh	1:00
San Francisco at St. Louis	12:00
New Orleans at Tampa Bay	1:00
Indianapolis at Tennessee	12:00
Seattle at Arizona	1:05
Minnesota at Detroit	4:05
Dallas at Miami	4:05
N.Y. Jets at Baltimore	4:15
Kansas City at Chicago	3:15
Oakland at Denver	2:15
San Diego at New England	8:15

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Washington at Philadelphia	8:30

THIRD WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Arizona at Baltimore	1:00
San Diego at Green Bay	12:00
Indianapolis at Houston	12:00
Minnesota at Kansas City	12:00
Buffalo at New England	1:00
Miami at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Detroit at Philadelphia	1:00
San Francisco at Pittsburgh	1:00
St. Louis at Tampa Bay	1:00
Jacksonville at Denver	2:05
Cleveland at Oakland	1:05
Cincinnati at Seattle	1:05
Carolina at Atlanta	4:15
N.Y. Giants at Washington	4:15
Dallas at Chicago	7:15

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Tennessee at New Orleans	7:30

FOURTH WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Byes: Jacksonville, New Orleans, Tennessee, Washington	
Houston at Atlanta	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo	1:00
Baltimore at Cleveland	1:00
St. Louis at Dallas	12:00
Chicago at Detroit	1:00
Oakland at Miami	1:00
Green Bay at Minnesota	12:00
Tampa Bay at Carolina	4:05
Seattle at San Francisco	1:05
Pittsburgh at Arizona	1:15
Denver at Indianapolis	4:15
Kansas City at San Diego	1:15
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants	8:15

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

New England at Cincinnati	8:30

FIFTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

Byes: Cincinnati, Minnesota, Oakland, Philadelphia	
Miami at Houston	12:00
Jacksonville at Kansas City	12:00
Cleveland at New England	1:00
Carolina at New Orleans	12:00
N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Seattle at Pittsburgh	1:00
Arizona at St. Louis	12:00
Atlanta at Tennessee	12:00
Detroit at Washington	1:00
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis	4:05
San Diego at Denver	2:15
Baltimore at San Francisco	1:15
Chicago at Green Bay	7:15

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

Dallas at Buffalo	8:30

SIXTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Byes: Buffalo, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, San Francisco	
St. Louis at Baltimore	1:00
Minnesota at Chicago	12:00
Miami at Cleveland	1:00
Washington at Green Bay	12:00
Houston at Jacksonville	1:00
Cincinnati at Kansas City	12:00
Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Tennessee at Tampa Bay	1:00
Carolina at Arizona	1:05
New England at Dallas	3:15
Oakland at San Diego	1:15
New Orleans at Seattle	5:15

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

N.Y. Giants at Atlanta	8:30

SEVENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

Byes: Carolina, Cleveland, Green Bay, San Diego	
Baltimore at Buffalo	1:00
Minnesota at Dallas	12:00
Tampa Bay at Detroit	1:00
Tennessee at Houston	12:00
New England at Miami	1:00
San Francisco at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Atlanta at New Orleans	12:00
Arizona at Washington	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cincinnati	4:05
Kansas City at Oakland	1:05
Chicago at Philadelphia	4:15
St. Louis at Seattle	1:15
Pittsburgh at Denver	6:15

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

Indianapolis at Jacksonville	8:30

EIGHTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

Byes: Arizona, Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City, Seattle	
Indianapolis at Carolina	1:00
Detroit at Chicago	12:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
N.Y. Giants vs. Miami (LONDON)	5:00
Philadelphia at Minnesota	12:00
Cleveland at St. Louis	12:00
Oakland at Tennessee	12:00
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets	4:05
Houston at San Diego	1:05
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay	4:05
Washington at New England	4:15
New Orleans at San Francisco	1:15

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

Green Bay at Denver	6:30

NINTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Byes: Chicago, Miami, N.Y. Giants, St. Louis	
San Francisco at Atlanta	1:00
Cincinnati at Buffalo	1:00
Denver at Detroit	1:00
Green Bay at Kansas City	12:00
San Diego at Minnesota	12:00
Jacksonville at New Orleans	12:00
Washington at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Arizona at Tampa Bay	1:00
Carolina at Tennessee	12:00
Seattle at Cleveland	4:05
New England at Indianapolis	4:15
Houston at Oakland	1:15
Dallas at Philadelphia	8:15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Baltimore at Pittsburgh	8:30

TENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Byes: Houston, New England, N.Y. Jets, Tampa Bay	
Atlanta at Carolina	1:00
Minnesota at Green Bay	12:00
Denver at Kansas City	12:00
Buffalo at Miami	1:00
St. Louis at New Orleans	12:00
Cleveland at Pittsburgh	1:00
Jacksonville at Tennessee	12:00
Philadelphia at Washington	1:00
Cincinnati at Baltimore	4:05
Detroit at Arizona	2:15
Dallas at N.Y. Giants	4:15
Chicago at Oakland	1:15
Indianapolis at San Diego	5:15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

San Francisco at Seattle	5:30

ELEVENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Tampa Bay at Atlanta	1:00
Cleveland at Baltimore	1:00
New England at Buffalo	1:00
Arizona at Cincinnati	1:00
Washington at Dallas	12:00
Carolina at Green Bay	12:00
New Orleans at Houston	12:00
Kansas City at Indianapolis	1:00
San Diego at Jacksonville	1:00
Oakland at Minnesota	12:00
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Miami at Philadelphia	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Detroit	4:15
St. Louis at San Francisco	1:15
Chicago at Seattle *	5:15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Tennessee at Denver	6:30

TWELFTH WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Green Bay at Detroit	12:30
N.Y. Jets at Dallas	3:15
Indianapolis at Atlanta	8:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

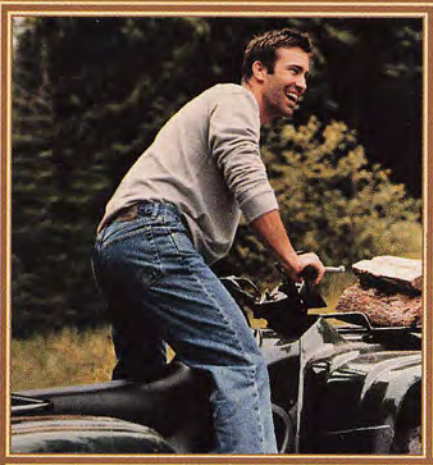
New Orleans at Carolina	1:00
Denver at Chicago	12:00
Tennessee at Cincinnati	1:00
Houston at Cleveland	1:00
Buffalo at Jacksonville	1:00
Oakland at Kansas City	12:00
Minnesota at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Seattle at St. Louis	12:00
Washington at Tampa Bay	1:00
San Francisco at Arizona	2:05
Baltimore at San Diego	1:15
Philadelphia at New England *	8:15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Miami at Pittsburgh	8:30

* Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change

We Fit Your Life. ©2007 VF Jeanswear, Inc.



☆☆☆☆☆

Wrangler

FIVE STAR

Premium Quality

DENIM

BUILT COMFORTABLE

BUILT STRONG ★ BUILT RIGHT

Wrangler®

Wrangler

For a retailer near you, call toll-free 1-888-784-8571 or visit www.wrangler.com.

Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

NFL SCHEDULES

Wrangler

THIRTEENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Green Bay at Dallas	7:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

San Francisco at Carolina	1:00
Jacksonville at Indianapolis	1:00
San Diego at Kansas City	12:00
N.Y. Jets at Miami	1:00
Detroit at Minnesota	12:00
Tampa Bay at New Orleans	12:00
Seattle at Philadelphia	1:00
Atlanta at St. Louis	12:00
Houston at Tennessee	12:00
Buffalo at Washington	1:00
Cleveland at Arizona	2:05
Denver at Oakland	1:05
N.Y. Giants at Chicago	3:15
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh *	8:15

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

New England at Baltimore	8:30

FOURTEENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Chicago at Washington	8:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Miami at Buffalo	1:00
St. Louis at Cincinnati	1:00
Dallas at Detroit	1:00
Oakland at Green Bay	12:00
Tampa Bay at Houston	12:00
Carolina at Jacksonville	1:00
Pittsburgh at New England	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia	1:00
San Diego at Tennessee	12:00
Minnesota at San Francisco	1:05
Arizona at Seattle	1:05
Kansas City at Denver	2:15
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets	4:15
Indianapolis at Baltimore *	8:15

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

New Orleans at Atlanta	8:30

FIFTEENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Denver at Houston	7:15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Cincinnati at San Francisco	5:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Seattle at Carolina	1:00
Buffalo at Cleveland	1:00
Tennessee at Kansas City	12:00
Baltimore at Miami	1:00
N.Y. Jets at New England	1:00
Arizona at New Orleans	12:00
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh	1:00
Green Bay at St. Louis	12:00
Atlanta at Tampa Bay	1:00
Indianapolis at Oakland	1:05
Philadelphia at Dallas	3:15
Detroit at San Diego	1:15
Washington at N.Y. Giants *	8:15

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Chicago at Minnesota	7:30

SIXTEENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Pittsburgh at St. Louis	7:15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Dallas at Carolina	8:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

N.Y. Giants at Buffalo	1:00
Green Bay at Chicago	12:00
Cleveland at Cincinnati	1:00
Kansas City at Detroit	1:00
Houston at Indianapolis	1:00
Oakland at Jacksonville	1:00
Washington at Minnesota	12:00
Miami at New England	1:00
Philadelphia at New Orleans	12:00
Atlanta at Arizona	2:05
Baltimore at Seattle	1:15
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee	3:15
Tampa Bay at San Francisco *	5:15

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Denver at San Diego	5:00

SEVENTEENTH WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

New England at N.Y. Giants	8:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

Seattle at Atlanta	1:00
Pittsburgh at Baltimore	1:00
New Orleans at Chicago	12:00
San Francisco at Cleveland	1:00
Detroit at Green Bay	12:00
Jacksonville at Houston	12:00
Tennessee at Indianapolis	1:00
Cincinnati at Miami	1:00
Buffalo at Philadelphia	1:00
Carolina at Tampa Bay	1:00
Dallas at Washington	1:00
St. Louis at Arizona	2:15
Minnesota at Denver	2:15
San Diego at Oakland	1:15
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets *	8:15

POSTSEASON

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5
AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs (NBC)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6
AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs (CBS and FOX)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs (CBS and FOX)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs (CBS and FOX)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20
AFC and NFC Championship Games (CBS and FOX)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Super Bowl XLII at University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale, AZ (FOX)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10
AFC-NFC Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii (FOX)

NFL NETWORK SCHEDULE

All times local

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Indianapolis at Atlanta	8:15

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Green Bay at Dallas	7:15

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Chicago at Washington	8:15

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Denver at Houston	7:15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Cincinnati at San Francisco	5:15

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Pittsburgh at St. Louis	7:15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Dallas at Carolina	8:15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

New England at N.Y. Giants	8:15

NFL NETWORK

ESPN MONDAY NIGHT FOOBALL SCHEDULE

All times local

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Baltimore at Cincinnati	7:00
Arizona at San Francisco	7:15

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Washington at Philadelphia	8:30

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Tennessee at New Orleans	7:30

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

New England at Cincinnati	8:30

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

Dallas at Buffalo	8:30

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

N.Y. Giants at Atlanta	8:30

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

Indianapolis at Jacksonville	8:30

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

Green Bay at Denver	6:30

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Baltimore at Pittsburgh	8:30

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

San Francisco at Seattle	5:30

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Tennessee at Denver	6:30

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Miami at Pittsburgh	8:30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

New England at Baltimore	8:30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

New Orleans at Atlanta	8:30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Chicago at Minnesota	7:30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Denver at San Diego	5:00

NBC SCHEDULE

All times local

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

New Orleans at Indianapolis	8:30

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

N.Y. Giants at Dallas	7:15

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

San Diego at New England	8:15

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Dallas at Chicago	7:15

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants	8:15

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

Chicago at Green Bay	7:15

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

New Orleans at Seattle	5:15

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

Pittsburgh at Denver	6:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Dallas at Philadelphia	8:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Indianapolis at San Diego	5:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

*Chicago at Seattle	5:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

*Philadelphia at New England	8:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

*Cincinnati at Pittsburgh	8:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

*Indianapolis at Baltimore	8:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

*Washington at N.Y. Giants	8:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

*Tampa Bay at San Francisco	5:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

*Kansas City at N.Y. Jets	8:15

*Games subject to change per flex scheduling. Games in Weeks 11-16 can be switched 12 days in advance. In Week 17, the change can be made six days in advance.

Rating the Teams

The following chart is a compilation of the position ratings for each team that were included in the preview stories. Each unit is rated on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Intangibles had a plus or minus of no more than 2. That figure was added or subtracted from the total of all positions.

	COACH	QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	SEC	ST	INT	TOTAL
NFC EAST											
Philadelphia	8.5	8.5	8.0	7.0	8.0	7.5	7.0	8.0	7.5	-1	69.0
Dallas	7.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	7.5	7.0	7.0	+1	65.5
N.Y. Giants	7.0	7.5	6.5	7.5	7.0	8.0	7.0	6.5	7.0	-1	63.0
Washington	7.5	6.0	8.0	6.5	7.5	6.5	6.5	7.5	7.0	-1	62.0
NFC NORTH											
Chicago	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.5	7.0	8.0	9.0	8.0	10.0	-2	68.0
Detroit	6.0	7.0	6.5	8.0	6.5	7.0	6.5	6.5	7.0	+2	63.0
Green Bay	6.5	7.5	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.0	+1	62.5
Minnesota	6.0	6.0	7.5	5.5	7.0	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.5	-1	59.0
NFC SOUTH											
New Orleans	7.5	9.0	9.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.0	7.5	+1	71.5
Carolina	7.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	9.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	+1	64.0
Tampa Bay	7.5	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	6.0	7.0	E	62.5
Atlanta	6.5	7.0	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.5	7.0	7.0	6.5	-1	61.0
NFC WEST											
Seattle	8.0	7.5	8.0	7.0	7.0	6.5	9.0	7.0	7.0	+1	68.0
St. Louis	6.5	8.0	8.0	8.5	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.5	7.0	+1	67.0
San Francisco	7.0	6.5	9.0	7.5	7.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	7.5	+1	66.5
Arizona	6.0	7.0	7.5	9.0	6.0	6.0	6.5	6.5	8.0	+2	64.5
AFC EAST											
New England	9.0	8.5	6.5	8.0	7.0	8.0	7.5	6.5	6.0	+2	69.0
Buffalo	7.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.5	7.0	9.0	+1	66.0
N.Y. Jets	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	+1	65.5
Miami	6.5	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.0	7.5	8.5	7.0	7.0	-1	61.5
AFC NORTH											
Baltimore	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.5	7.0	8.0	9.0	9.0	8.0	+1	73.0
Cincinnati	7.5	9.0	7.5	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	7.5	-1	67.5
Pittsburgh	6.5	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.0	8.0	6.5	7.0	6.5	E	65.0
Cleveland	6.0	6.0	7.0	7.5	7.5	6.0	7.5	7.0	8.0	+1	63.5
AFC SOUTH											
Indianapolis	9.0	9.5	7.5	9.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	E	74.0
Jacksonville	6.5	6.0	9.0	6.5	8.0	8.0	7.5	8.0	7.5	-2	65.0
Houston	6.5	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	+2	62.5
Tennessee	8.0	6.5	6.0	6.0	8.0	7.0	7.5	6.5	7.0	E	62.5
AFC WEST											
San Diego	6.5	8.0	10.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.5	7.0	E	69.5
Denver	8.0	6.5	8.0	7.0	6.5	6.0	6.5	9.0	7.5	E	65.0
Oakland	6.0	6.5	6.5	7.0	6.5	8.0	7.5	7.5	7.0	+2	64.5
Kansas City	7.0	6.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	7.5	6.5	E	61.0

Key: QB=Quarterbacks; RB=Running Backs; REC=Wide Receivers/Tight Ends; OL=Offensive Linemen; DL=Defensive Linemen; LB=Linebackers; SEC=Secondary; ST=Special Teams; INT=Intangibles

NFC final statistics

PASSING

Player	Att	Cmp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Brees, NO	554	356	64.3	4418	7.97	26	4.7	86t	11	2.0	96.2
McNabb, PHI	316	180	57.0	2647	8.38	18	5.7	87t	6	1.9	95.5
Romo, DAL	337	220	65.3	2903	8.61	19	5.6	56t	13	3.9	95.1
Bulger, STL	588	370	62.9	4301	7.31	24	4.1	67t	8	1.4	92.9
Brunell, WAS	260	162	62.3	1789	6.88	8	3.1	74	4	1.5	86.5
Delhomme, CAR	431	263	61.0	2805	6.51	17	3.9	72t	11	2.6	82.6
Kitna, DET	596	372	62.4	4208	7.06	21	3.5	60t	22	3.7	79.9
Manning, NYG	522	301	57.7	3244	6.21	24	4.6	55t	18	3.4	77.0
Hasselbeck, SEA	371	210	56.6	2442	6.58	18	4.9	72t	15	4.0	76.0
Vick, ATL	388	204	52.6	2474	6.38	20	5.2	55	13	3.4	75.7
Smith, SF	442	257	58.1	2890	6.54	16	3.6	75	16	3.6	74.8
*Leinart, ARI	377	214	56.8	2547	6.76	11	2.9	58	12	3.2	74.0
Grossman, CHI	480	262	54.6	3193	6.65	23	4.8	62	20	4.2	73.9
Favre, GB	613	343	56.0	3885	6.34	18	2.9	82t	18	2.9	72.7
Johnson, MIN	439	270	61.5	2750	6.26	9	2.1	46	15	3.4	72.0
*Gradkowski, TB	328	177	54.0	1661	5.06	9	2.7	53	9	2.7	65.9
Nonqualifiers (More than 10 attempts)											
Feeley, PHI	38	26	68.4	342	9.00	3	7.9	89t	0	0.0	122.9
Garcia, PHI	188	116	61.7	1309	6.96	10	5.3	65	2	1.1	95.8
Martin, NO	24	16	66.7	208	8.67	1	4.2	65	1	4.2	90.3
Warner, ARI	168	108	64.3	1377	8.20	6	3.6	64	5	3.0	89.3
Rattay, TB	101	61	60.4	748	7.41	4	4.0	64t	2	2.0	88.2
Campbell, WAS	207	110	53.1	1297	6.27	10	4.8	66t	6	2.9	76.5
Wallace, SEA	141	82	58.2	927	6.57	8	5.7	49t	7	5.0	76.2
Bollinger, MIN	18	13	72.2	146	8.11	0	0.0	50	1	5.6	72.9
Schaub, ATL	27	18	66.7	208	7.70	1	3.7	47	2	7.4	71.2
Bledsoe, DAL	169	90	53.3	1164	6.89	7	4.1	51	8	4.7	69.2
Weinke, CAR	96	56	58.3	625	6.51	2	2.1	38	4	4.2	67.4
*Jackson, MIN	81	47	58.0	475	5.86	2	2.5	50	4	4.9	62.5
Griese, CHI	32	18	56.3	220	6.88	1	3.1	75t	2	6.3	62.0
Rodgers, GB	15	6	40.0	46	3.07	0	0.0	16	0	0.0	48.2
Simms, TB	106	58	54.7	585	5.52	1	0.9	55	7	6.6	46.3
*Basanez, CAR	11	6	54.5	56	5.09	0	0.0	18	1	9.1	30.9

RUSHING

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Gore, SF.	312	1695	5.4	72	8
Barber, T., NYG	327	1662	5.1	55t	5
Jackson, STL	346	1528	4.4	59t	13
Westbrook, PHI	240	1217	5.1	71t	7
Taylor, MIN	303	1216	4.0	95t	6
Jones, CHI	296	1210	4.1	30t	6
James, ARI	337	1159	3.4	18	6
Betts, WAS	245	1154	4.7	26	4
Dunn, ATL	286	1140	4.0	90t	4
Jones, DAL	267	1084	4.1	77t	4
Green, GB	266	1059	4.0	70t	5
McAllister, NO	244	1057	4.3	57	10
Vick, ATL	123	1039	8.4	51	2
Foster, CAR	227	897	4.0	43t	3
Alexander, SEA	252	896	3.6	33t	7
Williams, TB	225	798	3.5	38	1
Jones, DET	181	689	3.8	52	6
Barber, DAL	135	654	4.8	25	14
Benson, CHI	157	647	4.1	30	6
*Norwood, ATL	99	633	6.4	78t	2
Morris, SEA	161	604	3.8	29	0
*Bush, NO	155	565	3.6	18	6
Portis, WAS	127	523	4.1	38t	7
*Williams, CAR	121	501	4.1	31	1
Morency, HOU-GB	96	434	4.5	39	2
Jacobs, NYG	96	423	4.4	16	9
Buckhalter,PHI	83	345	4.2	20	2
Pittman, TB	50	245	4.9	32	1
McNabb, PHI	32	212	6.6	37	3
Pinner, MIN	43	190	4.4	21	3
Davis, STL	40	177	4.4	16	0
Alstott, TB	60	171	2.9	17	3

PASS RECEIVING

30 or more catches	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Furrey, DET	98	1086	11.1	31	6
Holt, STL	93	1188	12.8	67t	10
Driver, GB.	92	1295	14.1	82t	8
Jackson, STL	90	806	9.0	64t	3
*Bush, NO	88	742	8.4	74	2
Owens, DAL	85	1180	13.9	56t	13
Boldin, ARI	83	1203	14.5	64	4
Smith, CAR	83	1166	14.0	72t	8
Williams, DET	82	1310	16.0	60t	7
Westbrook, PHI	77	699	9.1	52t	4
Bruce, STL	74	1098	14.8	45	3
Glenn, DAL	70	1047	15.0	54	6
*Colston, NO	70	1038	14.8	86t	8
Johnson, CAR	70	815	11.6	40	4
Fitzgerald, ARI	69	946	13.7	57	6
Shockey, NYG	66	623	9.4	25	7
Witten, DAL	64	754	11.8	42	1
Burress, NYG	63	988	15.7	55t	10
Jackson, SEA	63	956	15.2	72t	10
Galloway, TB	62	1057	17.0	64t	7
Jones, DET	61	520	8.5	26	2
Gore, SF	61	485	8.0	39	1

30 or more catches	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Muhammad, CHI	60	863	14.4	40	5
Battle, SF	59	686	11.6	56	3
Barber, NYG	58	465	8.0	28	0
Cooley, WAS	57	734	12.9	66t	6
Taylor, MIN	57	651	11.4	36	3
Crumpler, ATL	56	780	13.9	46	8
Moss, WAS	55	790	14.4	68t	6
Branch, SEA	53	725	13.7	38t	4
Betts, WAS	53	445	8.4	34	1
Berrian, CHI	51	775	15.2	62	6
Smith, PHI	50	611	12.2	65	5
Pittman, TB	47	405	8.6	25	0
Brown, PHI	46	816	17.7	60t	8
Moore, MIN	46	468	10.2	50	1
Wiggins, MIN	46	386	8.4	24	1
Green, GB	46	373	8.1	20	1
*Jennings, GB	45	632	14.0	75t	3
Clark, CHI	45	626	13.9	33	6
Hackett, SEA	45	610	13.6	47	4
Taylor, MIN	42	288	6.9	24	0
Johnson, ARI	40	740	18.5	58	4
Bryant, SF	40	733	18.3	72t	3

30 or more catches	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Curtis, STL	40	479	12.0	42	4
Jenkins, ATL	39	436	11.2	34t	7
Stallworth, PHI	38	725	19.1	84t	5
James, ARI	38	217	5.7	14	0
Horn, NO	37	679	18.4	72t	4
Williamson, MIN	37	455	12.3	46	0
Crayton, DAL	36	516	14.3	53t	4
Jones, CHI	36	154	4.3	21	0
Smith, TB	35	250	7.1	27	3
Hilliard, TB	34	339	10.0	44t	2
Johnson, SF	34	292	8.6	26	2
Clayton, TB	33	356	10.8	27	1
*Williams, CAR	33	313	9.5	41	1
Henderson, NO	32	745	23.3	76t	5
Toomer, NYG	32	360	11.3	44	3
Randle El, WAS	32	351	11.0	34t	3
Foster, CAR	32	159	5.0	14	0
White, ATL	30	506	16.9	55	0
McAllister, NO	30	198	6.6	24	0
Williams, TB	30	196	6.5	21	0

RUSHING, cont.	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Gradkowski ,TB	41	161	3.9	14	0
Harris, DET	49	158	3.2	20	1
Kitna, DET	34	156	4.6	18	2
Herron, GB	37	150	4.1	19	1
Strong, SEA	33	149	4.5	17	1
Smith, SF	44	147	3.3	22	2
Duckett, WAS	38	132	3.5	19	2
Moore, MIN	24	131	5.5	15	0
Wallace, SEA	12	122	10.2	37	0
Randle El, WAS	19	118	6.2	20	0
Robinson, SF	38	116	3.1	33	2
Hasselbeck, SEA	18	110	6.1	19	0
Campbell, WAS	24	107	4.5	15	0
Griffith, ATL	19	106	5.6	21t	1
Romo, DAL	34	102	3.0	16	0
Fason, MIN	18	99	5.5	15	1
Cason, DET	24	94	3.9	16	0
Gilmore, SF	7	94	13.4	22	0

INTERCEPTIONS

Three or more	No	Yards	Avg	LG	TD
Harris, SF	8	84	10.5	42	1
Woodson, GB	8	61	7.6	23t	1
Sheppard, PHI	6	157	26.2	102t	1
Manning, CHI	5	113	22.6	54t	1
Williams, DAL	5	33	6.6	27	0
Tillman, CHI	5	32	6.4	13	0
Wilson, ARI	4	146	36.5	99t	1
Hall, ATL	4	131	32.8	60	1
Smith, MIN	4	81	20.3	47	0
Dawkins, PHI	4	38	9.5	38	0
Winfield, MIN	4	33	8.3	26	1
Sharper, MIN	4	10	2.5	10	0
Fletcher, DET	3	122	40.7	88t	1
Barber, TB	3	103	34.3	66t	2
Collins, GB	3	68	22.7	55t	1
Bartell, STL	3	63	21.0	38t	1
Hamlin, SEA	3	63	21.0	37	0
Marshall, CAR	3	59	19.7	30t	1
Brooks, TB	3	51	17.0	21t	1
Watkins, DAL	3	45	15.0	24	0
Harris, GB	3	39	13.0	34	0
Urlacher, CHI	3	38	12.7	36	0
Dendy, GB	3	37	12.3	30t	1
Gamble, CAR	3	31	10.3	18t	1
Griffith, ARI	3	30	10.0	23	0
Hayes, ARI	3	24	8.0	24	0
Harris, MIN	3	20	6.7	11	0
Hill, STL	3	20	6.7	14	0
Brown, STL	3	17	5.7	20	0
Bly, DET	3	13	4.3	8	0
Lucas, CAR	3	13	4.3	13	0
Vasher, CHI	3	11	3.7	7	0
Atogwe, STL	3	8	2.7	7	0
Holt, DET	3	8	2.7	7	0

SCORING-KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	Points
Gould, CHI	47	47	32	36	143
Wilkins, STL	35	35	32	37	131
Hanson, DET	30	30	29	33	117
Nedney, SF	29	29	29	35	116
Rackers, ARI	32	32	28	37	116
Carney, NO	46	47	23	25	115
Brown, SEA	36	36	25	31	111
Rayner, GB	31	32	26	35	109
Feely, NYG	38	38	23	27	107
Akers, PHI	48	48	18	23	102
Kasay, CAR	28	28	24	27	100
Longwell, MIN	27	28	21	25	90
Andersen, ATL	27	27	20	23	87
Bryant, TB	22	23	17	22	73
Vanderjagt, DAL	33	33	13	18	72
Gramatica, IND-DAL	23	23	7	9	44
Suisham, DAL-WAS	14	14	9	11	41
Hall, WAS	9	9	9	11	36
Novak, WAS	10	10	5	10	25
Koenen, ATL	4	4	3	9	13
Cundiff, NO	0	0	0	1	0

SCORING-NON KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	2PT	Points
Barber, DAL	16	14	2	0	0	96
Jackson, STL	16	13	3	0	0	96
Owens, DAL	13	0	13	0	1	80
McAllister, NO	11	10	0	1	0	66
Westbrook, PHI	11	7	4	0	0	66
Burress, NYG	10	0	10	0	0	60
Holt, STL	10	0	10	0	0	60
Jackson, SEA	10	0	10	0	0	60
Brown, PHI	9	1	8	0	0	54
Bush, NO	9	6	2	1	0	54
Gore, SF	9	8	1	0	0	54
Jacobs, NYG	9	9	0	0	0	54
Smith, CAR	9	1	8	0	0	54
Colston, NO	8	0	8	0	0	48
Crumpler, ATL	8	0	8	0	0	48
Driver, GB	8	0	8	0	0	48
Jones, DET	8	6	2	0	0	48
Alexander, SEA	7	7	0	0	0	42
Galloway, TB	7	0	7	0	0	42
Jenkins, ATL	7	0	7	0	0	42
Portis, WAS	7	7	0	0	0	42
Shockey, NYG	7	0	7	0	0	42
Williams, DET	7	0	7	0	0	42
Cooley, WAS	6	0	6	0	1	38
Moss, WAS	6	0	6	0	1	38
Benson, CHI	6	6	0	0	0	36
Berrian, CHI	6	0	6	0	0	36
Clark, CHI	6	0	6	0	0	36
Fitzgerald, ARI	6	0	6	0	0	36
Furrey, DET	6	0	6	0	0	36
Glenn, DAL	6	0	6	0	0	36
Green, GB	6	5	1	0	0	36
Henderson, NO	6	1	5	0	0	36
Hester, CHI	6	0	0	6	0	36
James, ARI	6	6	0	0	0	36
Jones, CHI	6	6	0	0	0	36
Taylor, MIN	6	6	0	0	0	36
Smith, PHI	5	0	5	0	1	32
Barber, NYG	5	5	0	0	0	30
Betts, WAS	5	4	1	0	0	30
Dunn, ATL	5	4	1	0	0	30
Johnson, CAR	5	1	4	0	0	30
Muhammad, CHI	5	0	5	0	0	30
Stallworth, PHI	5	0	5	0	0	30
Horn, NO	4	0	4	0	1	26
Stevens, SEA	4	0	4	0	1	26
Boldin, ARI	4	0	4	0	0	24
Branch, SEA	4	0	4	0	0	24
Campbell, DET	4	0	4	0	0	24
Crayton, DAL	4	0	4	0	0	24
Curtis, STL	4	0	4	0	0	24
Griffith, ATL	4	1	3	0	0	24
Hackett, SEA	4	0	4	0	0	24
Johnson, ARI	4	0	4	0	0	24
Jones, DAL	4	4	0	0	0	24
Randle El, WAS	4	0	3	1	0	24
Robinson, MIN	4	0	4	0	0	24
Shipp, ARI	4	4	0	0	0	24

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Hester, CHI	20	528	26.4	96t	2
Thompson, DAL	21	546	26.0	41	0
Austin, DAL	29	753	26.0	37	0
Hicks, SF	57	1428	25.1	64	0
Burleson, SEA	26	643	24.7	50	0
Lewis, NO	37	914	24.7	51	0
Cartwright, WAS	64	1541	24.1	100t	1
Davis, CHI	32	753	23.5	42	0
Rossum, ATL	46	1082	23.5	51	0
Johnson, MIN	45	1054	23.4	65	0

PUNT RETURNS

	No	FC	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Hester, CHI	47	12	600	12.8	84t	3
Drummond, DET	28	13	296	10.6	40	0
Walters, ARI	24	12	250	10.4	37	0
Moore, MIN	36	9	365	10.1	71t	1
Newman, DAL	20	6	202	10.1	56t	1
Burleson, SEA	34	7	322	9.5	90t	1
Morton, NYG	29	13	268	9.2	38	0
Woodson, GB	41	2	363	8.9	40	0
Randle El, WAS	39	11	342	8.8	87t	1
Rossum, ATL	37	13	288	7.8	41	0

TEAM SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	2PT	2PTA	FG	FGA	SAF	Points
Chicago	47	14	24	9	47	47	0	0	32	36	1	427
Dallas	52	21	26	5	49	49	2	3	20	28	0	425
New Orleans	49	19	27	3	46	47	2	2	23	26	0	413
Philadelphia	49	13	31	5	48	48	1	1	18	23	0	398
St. Louis	39	13	24	2	35	35	1	3	32	37	0	367
N.Y. Giants	41	14	24	3	38	38	0	2	23	27	1	355
Seattle	37	8	26	3	36	36	1	1	25	31	0	335
Arizona	33	12	17	4	32	32	0	1	28	37	0	314
Washington	34	13	19	2	31	31	2	2	22	30	1	307
Detroit	31	9	21	1	30	30	0	1	29	33	1	305
Green Bay	32	9	18	5	31	32	0	0	26	35	0	301
San Francisco	30	12	16	2	29	29	0	1	29	35	1	298
Atlanta	32	9	21	2	31	31	0	1	23	32	0	292
Minnesota	32	12	13	7	27	28	0	4	21	25	0	282
Carolina	28	7	19	2	28	28	0	0	24	27	1	270
Tampa Bay	23	6	14	3	22	23	0	0	17	22	0	211

PUNTING

	No	Yards	Long	Avg	TB	Blk	Opp Ret	Ret Yds	In 20	Net Avg
McBriar, DAL	56	2697	75	48.2	10	0	31	334	22	38.6
Baker, CAR	98	4483	70	45.7	12	1	60	382	31	39.0
Plackemeier, SEA	84	3778	72	45.0	15	0	38	343	25	37.3
Harris, DET	66	2967	67	45.0	9	0	38	267	18	38.2
Player, ARI	66	2965	58	44.9	3	2	44	562	18	34.5
Lee, SF	81	3625	66	44.8	9	0	35	462	22	36.8
Ryan, GB	84	3739	66	44.5	12	0	55	503	17	35.7
Maynard,CHI	77	3404	65	44.2	7	0	38	367	24	37.6
Weatherford,NO	77	3369	59	43.8	10	0	40	279	19	37.5
Turk, STL	72	3132	74	43.5	5	1	26	239	26	38.3
Bidwell, TB	93	4045	59	43.5	7	0	50	487	20	36.8
Frost, WAS	81	3471	60	42.9	7	1	45	319	27	36.7
Johnson, PHI	78	3326	60	42.6	11	0	41	380	21	34.9
Kluwe, MIN	93	3934	68	42.3	7	0	50	485	28	35.6
Koenen, ATL	76	3199	65	42.1	6	2	25	279	25	35.9
Feagles, NYG	77	3098	54	40.2	3	0	33	191	27	37.0

AFC final statistics

PASSING

Player	Att	Cmp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Manning, IND	557	362	65.0	4397	7.89	31	5.6	68t	9	1.6	101.0
Huard, Damon, KC	244	148	60.7	1878	7.70	11	4.5	78	1	0.4	98.0
Palmer, CIN	520	324	62.3	4035	7.76	28	5.4	74t	13	2.5	93.9
Rivers, SD	460	284	61.7	3388	7.37	22	4.8	57t	9	2.0	92.0
Brady, NE	516	319	61.8	3529	6.84	24	4.7	62t	12	2.3	87.9
Losman, BUF	429	268	62.5	3051	7.11	19	4.4	83t	14	3.3	84.9
Pennington, NYJ	485	313	64.5	3352	6.91	17	3.5	71t	16	3.3	82.6
McNair, BAL	468	295	63.0	3050	6.52	16	3.4	87t	12	2.6	82.5
Carr, HOU	442	302	68.3	2767	6.26	11	2.5	53	12	2.7	82.1
Garrard, JAC	241	145	60.2	1735	7.20	10	4.1	49	9	3.7	80.5
Roethlisberger, PIT	469	280	59.7	3513	7.49	18	3.8	67t	23	4.9	75.4
Frye, CLE	393	252	64.1	2454	6.24	10	2.5	75	17	4.3	72.0
Plummer, DEN	317	175	55.2	1994	6.29	11	3.5	83t	13	4.1	68.8
Harrington, MIA	388	223	57.5	2236	5.76	12	3.1	48	15	3.9	68.2
Young, TEN	357	184	51.5	2199	6.16	12	3.4	53	13	3.6	66.7
Walter, OAK	276	147	53.3	1677	6.08	3	1.1	51	13	4.7	55.8
Nonqualifiers (10 or more attempts)											
Batch, PIT	53	31	58.5	492	9.28	5	9.4	87t	0	0.0	121.0
Boller, BAL	55	33	60.0	485	8.82	5	9.1	77t	2	3.6	104.0
Rosenfels, HOU	39	27	69.2	265	6.79	3	7.7	28	1	2.6	103.0
Cutler, DEN	137	81	59.1	1001	7.31	9	6.6	71t	5	3.6	88.5
Gray, JAC	22	13	59.1	166	7.55	0	0.0	32	0	0.0	82.8
Leftwich, JAC	183	108	59.0	1159	6.33	7	3.8	51t	5	2.7	79.0
Lemon, MIA	68	38	55.9	412	6.06	2	2.9	38	1	1.5	77.6
Culpepper, MIA	134	81	60.4	929	6.93	2	1.5	52	3	2.2	77.0
Green, KC	198	121	61.1	1342	6.78	7	3.5	39	9	4.5	74.1
Anderson, CLE	117	66	56.4	793	6.78	5	4.3	54	8	6.8	63.1
Brooks, OAK	192	110	57.3	1105	5.76	3	1.6	57	8	4.2	61.7
Tuiasosopo, OAK	13	6	46.2	68	5.23	1	7.7	29	2	15.4	48.4
Collins, TEN	90	42	46.7	549	6.10	1	1.1	36	6	6.7	42.3

RUSHING

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Tomlinson, SD	348	1815	5.2	85t	28
Johnson, KC	416	1789	4.3	47	17
Parker, PIT	337	1494	4.4	76	13
Johnson, CIN	341	1309	3.8	22t	12
Henry, TEN	270	1211	4.5	70t	7
Taylor, JAC	231	1146	5.0	76	5
Lewis, BAL	314	1132	3.6	52	9
Addai, IND	226	1081	4.8	41	7
Bell, DEN	233	1025	4.4	51	2
Brown, MIA	241	1008	4.2	47	5
McGahee, BUF	259	990	3.8	57t	6
Jones-Drew, JAC	166	941	5.7	74t	13
Dillon, NE	199	812	4.1	50	13
Droughns, CLE	220	758	3.4	22	4
Maroney, NE	175	745	4.3	41	6
Bell, DEN	157	677	4.3	48	8
Fargas, OAK	178	659	3.7	48	1
Washington, NYJ	151	650	4.3	23	4
Rhodes, IND	187	641	3.4	17	5
Dayne, HOU	151	612	4.1	19	5
Young, TEN	83	552	6.7	39t	7
Turner, SD	80	502	6.3	73	2
Lundy, HOU	124	476	3.8	35	4
Jordan, OAK	114	434	3.8	59t	2
Morris, MIA	92	400	4.3	55	1
Thomas, BUF	107	378	3.5	19	2
Houston, NYJ	113	374	3.3	31	5
Barlow, NYJ	131	370	2.8	12	6
Garrard, JAC	47	250	5.3	20	0
White, TEN	61	244	4.0	26	0
Davenport, PIT	60	221	3.7	48	1
Frye, CLE	47	215	4.6	17	3
Gado, GB-HOU	56	210	3.8	34	1
Bennett, KC	36	200	5.6	41	0
Carr, HOU	53	195	3.7	16	2

PASS RECEIVING

30 or more catches	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Johnson, HOU	103	1147	11.1	53	5
Harrison, IND	95	1366	14.4	68t	12
Coles, NYJ	91	1098	12.1	58t	6
Houshmandzadeh, CIN	90	1081	12.0	40t	9
Winslow, CLE	89	875	9.8	40	3
Johnson, CIN	87	1369	15.7	74t	7
Wayne, IND	86	1310	15.2	51t	9
Evans, BUF	82	1292	15.8	83t	8
Cotchery, NYJ	82	961	11.7	71t	6
Ward, PIT	74	975	13.2	70t	6
Gonzalez, KC	73	900	12.3	57	5
Heap, BAL	73	765	10.5	30	6
Gates, SD	71	924	13.0	57t	9
Walker, DEN	69	1084	15.7	83t	8
Mason, DAL	68	750	11.0	38	2
Clayton, BAL	67	939	14.0	87t	5
Welker, MIA	67	687	10.3	38	1
Curry, OAK	62	727	11.7	39	1
McMichael, MIA	62	640	10.3	24	3
Edwards, CLE	61	884	14.5	75	6
Caldwell, NE	61	760	12.5	62t	4

30 or more catches	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Chambers, MIA	59	677	11.5	46	4
Moulds, HOU	57	557	9.8	29	1
Tomlinson, SD	56	508	9.1	51t	3
Booker, MIA	55	747	13.6	52	6
Kennison, KC	53	860	16.2	51	5
Williams, JAC	52	616	11.8	48	4
Smith, DEN	52	512	9.8	20	3
Holmes, PIT	49	824	16.8	67t	2
Watson, NE	49	643	13.1	40	3
Price, BUF	49	402	8.2	25	3
Parker, SD	48	659	13.7	38	0
Bennett, TEN	46	737	16.0	39	3
Jones-Drew, JAC	46	436	9.5	51t	2
Brown, NE	43	384	8.9	23	4
Faulk, NE	43	356	8.3	43t	2
Moss, OAK	42	553	13.2	51	3
Jones, JAC	41	643	15.7	49	4
Parker, KC	41	561	13.7	43	1
Johnson, KC	41	410	10.0	78	2
Jurevicius,CLE	40	495	12.4	52	3
Addai, IND	40	325	8.1	21t	1

30 or more catches	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Wrighster, JAC	39	353	9.1	23	3
Wilson, PIT	37	504	13.6	38t	1
Utecht, IND	37	377	10.2	26	0
Henry, CIN	36	605	16.8	71	9
Wilford, JAC	36	524	14.6	41	2
McCardell, SD	36	437	12.1	28	0
Rhodes, IND	36	251	7.0	27	0
Heiden, CLE	36	249	6.9	13	2
Washington, PIT	35	624	17.8	49t	4
Reed, BUF	34	410	12.1	52	2
Miller, PIT	34	393	11.6	87t	5
Daniels, HOU	34	352	10.4	33t	5
Wade, TEN	33	461	14.0	25	2
Brown, MIA	33	276	8.4	24	0
Lundy, HOU	33	204	6.2	15	0
Baker, NYJ	31	300	9.7	28	4
Parker, PIT	31	222	7.2	25t	3
Gabriel, NE-OAK	30	428	14.3	45	3
Clark, IND	30	367	12.2	40	4

RUSHING, cont.	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Wright, CLE	62	189	3.0	18	0
Anderson, BAL	39	183	4.7	34t	1
Crockett, OAK	39	163	4.2	17	0
Brown, TEN	41	156	3.8	21	0
Smith, BAL	36	153	4.3	30	0
Losman, BUF	38	140	3.7	15	1
Neal, SD	29	140	4.8	43	1
Watson, CIN	25	138	5.5	18	1
Brooks, OAK	22	124	5.6	23	0
Faulk, NE	25	123	4.9	11t	1
Taylor, HOU	28	123	4.4	17	1
Walker, DEN	9	123	13.7	72t	1
McNair, BAL	45	119	2.6	19	1
Evans, NE	27	117	4.3	35	0
Plummer, DEN	36	112	3.1	19	1
Pennington, NYJ	35	109	3.1	15	0
Smith, NYJ	18	103	5.7	32	0
Brady, NE	49	102	2.1	22	0

INTERCEPTIONS

Three or more	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Bailey, DEN	10	162	16.2	70t	1
Samuel, NE	10	120	12.0	33	0
Mathis, JAC	8	146	18.3	55	0
Asomugha,OAK	8	59	7.4	24t	1
McAlister, BAL	6	121	20.2	60t	2
Kaesviharn, CIN	6	24	4.0	22	0
Holly, CLE	5	127	25.4	57t	1
Hope, TEN	5	105	21.0	61t	1
Landry, BAL	5	101	20.2	37	1
Reed, BAL	5	70	14.0	37	1
Jones, CLE	5	46	9.2	19	0
Jones, A., TEN	4	130	32.5	83t	1
Jammer, SD	4	57	14.3	35	0
Rhodes, NYJ	4	46	11.5	25	0
James, CIN	4	44	11.0	28	0
Williams, DEN	4	37	9.3	31t	1
Fletcher-Baker, BUF	4	30	7.5	17t	1
Law, KC	4	11	2.8	16	0
Washington, OAK	4	4	1.0	7	0
Dyson, NYJ	4	-3	-.8	0	0
Clements,BUF	3	80	26.7	58t	1
Rolle, BAL	3	60	20.0	44	0
Polamalu, PIT	3	51	17.0	49	0
McFadden, PIT	3	39	13.0	39	0
Wesley, KC	3	39	13.0	29	0
Hart, SD	3	37	12.3	22	0
Williams, CIN	3	33	11.0	25	0
Page, KC	3	30	10.0	30	0
Florence, SD	3	24	8.0	23	0
Harper, IND	3	18	6.0	19	0
June, IND	3	14	4.7	8	0
Thompson, TEN	3	14	4.7	11	0
Edwards, SD	3	11	3.7	8	0
Barrett, NYJ	3	0	0.0	0	0
Vrabel, NE	3	0	0.0	2	0

SCORING-KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	Points
Kaeding, SD	58	58	26	29	136
Stover, BAL	37	37	28	30	121
Scobee, JAC	41	41	26	32	119
Elam, DEN	34	34	27	29	115
Graham, CIN	40	42	25	30	115
Vinatieri, IND	38	38	25	28	113
Tynes,KC	35	36	24	31	107
Nugent, NYJ	34	35	24	27	106
Gostkowski, NE	43	44	20	26	103
Lindell, BUF	33	33	23	25	102
Reed, PIT	41	41	20	27	101
Mare, MIA	2	22	26	36	100
Bironas, TEN	32	32	22	28	98
Dawson, CLE	25	25	21	29	88
Brown, HOU	26	27	19	25	83
Janikowski, OAK	16	16	18	25	70
Smith, Hunter, IND	0	1	0	0	0

SCORING-NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	2PT	Points
Tomlinson, SD	31	28	3	0	0	186
Johnson, KC	19	17	2	0	0	114
Jones-Drew, JAC	16	13	2	1	0	96
Parker, PIT	16	13	3	0	0	96
Dillon, NE	13	13	0	0	0	78
Harrison,IND	12	0	12	0	0	72
Johnson, CIN	12	12	0	0	0	72
Wayne,IND	9	0	9	0	1	56
Gates, SD	9	0	9	0	0	54
Henry, CIN	9	0	9	0	0	54
Houshmandzadeh, CIN	9	0	9	0	0	54
Lewis, BAL	9	9	0	0	0	54
Walker, DEN	9	1	8	0	0	54
Addai, IND	8	7	1	0	0	48
Bell, DEN	8	8	0	0	0	48
Evans, BUF	8	0	8	0	0	48
Henry, TEN	7	7	0	0	1	44
Young, TEN	7	7	0	0	1	44
Johnson, CIN	7	0	7	0	0	42
Maroney, NE	7	6	1	0	0	42
Booker, MIA	6	0	6	0	2	40
Jackson, SD	6	0	6	0	1	38
Barlow, NYJ	6	6	0	0	0	36
Coles, NYJ	6	0	6	0	0	36
Cotchery, NYJ	6	0	6	0	0	36
Edwards, CLE	6	0	6	0	0	36
Heap, BAL	6	0	6	0	0	36
McGahee, BUF	6	6	0	0	0	36
Taylor, JAC	6	5	1	0	0	36
Ward, PIT	6	0	6	0	0	36
Dayne, HOU	5	5	0	0	1	32
Gonzalez, KC	5	0	5	0	1	32
Brown, MIA	5	5	0	0	0	30
Clayton, BAL	5	0	5	0	0	30
Daniels, HOU	5	0	5	0	0	30
Houston, NYJ	5	5	0	0	0	30
Johnson, HOU	5	0	5	0	0	30
Kennison, KC	5	0	5	0	0	30
Miller, PIT	5	0	5	0	0	30
Rhodes, IND	5	5	0	0	0	30
Brown, NE	4	0	4	0	1	26
Caldwell, NE	4	0	4	0	1	26
Lundy, HOU	4	4	0	0	1	26
Baker, NYJ	4	0	4	0	0	24
Chambers, MIA	4	0	4	0	0	24
Clark, IND	4	0	4	0	0	24
Droughns, CLE	4	4	0	0	0	24
Jones, A., TEN	4	0	0	4	0	24
Jones, B., TEN	4	0	4	0	0	24
Jones, JAC	4	0	4	0	0	24
Manning, IND	4	4	0	0	0	24
Scheffler, DEN	4	0	4	0	0	24
Washington, NYJ	4	4	0	0	0	24
Washington, PIT	4	0	4	0	0	24
Williams, JAC	4	0	4	0	0	24

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Miller, NYJ	46	1304	28.3	103t	2
Maroney, NE	28	783	28.0	77	0
Jones-Drew, JAC	31	860	27.7	93t	1
Turner, SD	36	954	26.5	58	0
McGee, BUF	52	1355	26.1	88	0
Jones, A., TEN	20	521	26.1	70	0
Sams, BAL	30	772	25.7	72	0
Carr, OAK	69	1762	25.5	50	0
Cribbs, CLE	61	1494	24.5	92t	1
Wilkins, IND	52	1272	24.5	70	0
Wade, TEN	50	1194	23.9	48	0
Hall, KC	53	1207	22.8	60	0
Clark, DEN	23	512	22.3	36	0
Welker, MIA	48	1064	22.2	46	0
Wynn, PHI-HOU	48	1032	21.5	38	0
Davenport, PIT	21	448	21.3	40	0
Perry, CIN	21	412	19.6	36	0

PUNT RETURNS

	No	FC	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Jones, A., TEN	34	3	440	12.9	90t	3
Parrish, BUF	32	9	364	11.4	82t	1
Northcutt, CLE	28	13	312	11.1	81	0
Wynn, PHI-HOU	25	14	270	10.8	58	0
Faulk, NE	31	5	330	10.6	43	0
Sams, BAL	29	4	307	10.6	65	0
Holmes, PIT	26	21	264	10.2	65t	1
Welker, MIA	41	29	378	9.2	47	0
Wilkins, IND	21	13	193	9.2	82t	1
Parker, SD	37	15	331	8.9	50	0
Hall, KC	27	6	240	8.9	60t	1
Pearman, JAC	32	16	283	8.8	29	0
Williams, DEN	25	12	206	8.2	34	0
Ratliff,CIN	27	9	176	6.5	38	0
Carr, OAK	35	12	216	6.2	35	0

TEAM SCORING

Team	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	2PT	2PTA	FG	FGA	SAF	Points
San Diego	59	32	24	3	58	58	1	1	26	29	0	492
Indianapolis	50	17	31	2	47	48	1	2	26	29	0	427
New England	46	20	25	1	43	44	2	2	20	26	1	385
Cincinnati	43	14	28	1	40	42	0	1	25	30	0	373
Jacksonville	42	23	17	2	41	41	0	1	26	32	0	371
Baltimore	38	11	21	6	37	37	0	1	28	30	2	353
Pittsburgh	42	16	23	3	41	41	0	0	20	27	0	353
Kansas City	37	17	18	2	35	36	1	1	24	31	0	331
Tennessee	36	15	13	8	32	32	3	3	22	28	2	324
Denver	34	12	20	2	34	34	0	0	27	29	0	319
N.Y. Jets	35	15	17	3	34	35	0	0	24	27	0	316
Buffalo	33	9	19	5	33	33	0	0	23	25	0	300
Houston	30	13	14	3	26	27	2	3	19	25	0	267
Miami	26	7	16	3	22	22	2	4	26	36	0	260
Cleveland	25	7	15	3	25	25	0	0	21	29	0	238
Oakland	16	5	7	4	16	16	0	0	18	25	1	168

PUNTING

	No	Yards	Long	Avg	TB	Blk	Opp Ret	Ret Yds	Inside 20	Net Avg
Lechler, OAK	77	3660	67	47.5	19	1	34	437	19	36.4
Larson, CIN	77	3428	67	44.5	11	0	42	236	26	38.6
Smith, IND	47	2085	61	44.4	5	1	25	327	14	34.5
Colquitt, KC	71	3145	72	44.3	5	0	32	254	23	39.3
Graham, NYJ	72	3182	69	44.2	11	1	28	205	26	37.8
Zastudil, CLE	81	3563	61	44.0	7	0	43	312	28	38.4
Moorman, BUF	92	4012	66	43.6	7	0	36	265	33	39.2
Miller, NE	43	1848	62	43.0	7	0	18	169	12	35.8
Koch, BAL	86	3695	61	43.0	3	0	44	404	30	37.6
Jones, MIA	85	3640	64	42.8	10	1	49	367	28	35.7
Hentrich, TEN	88	3760	73	42.7	10	0	33	278	32	37.3
Scifres, SD	69	2893	71	41.9	2	0	27	216	35	38.2
Ernster, DEN	80	3338	61	41.7	7	0	39	268	23	36.6
Stanley, HOU	76	3161	62	41.6	5	0	36	275	15	36.7
Gardocki, PIT	65	2687	56	41.3	4	0	38	219	11	36.7
Hanson, JAC	72	2920	58	40.6	7	1	29	343	20	33.4

2006 NFC Team Statistics

OFFENSE

	ARIZ	ATL	CAR	CHI	DALL	DET	GB	MINN	NO	NYG	PHIL	STL	SF	SEA	TB	WASH
First Downs	298	287	278	300	336	290	301	272	330	304	312	332	243	312	237	295
Rushing	84	134	100	103	107	53	93	87	99	120	106	94	97	112	82	123
Passing	187	133	158	161	197	208	185	160	207	163	189	212	132	167	133	150
Penalty	27	20	20	36	32	29	23	25	24	21	17	26	14	33	22	22
Rushes	419	537	423	503	472	304	431	442	472	455	416	424	439	484	404	490
Net Yards	1338	2939	1659	1918	1936	1129	1663	1820	1761	2156	1984	1805	2172	1923	1523	2216
Avg. Gain	3.2	5.5	3.9	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.9	4.1	3.7	4.7	4.8	4.3	4.9	4.0	3.8	4.5
Avg/Game	83.6	183.7	103.7	119.9	121.0	70.6	103.9	113.8	110.1	134.8	124.0	112.8	135.8	120.2	95.2	138.5
Pass Attempts	545	416	539	514	506	596	630	540	580	523	544	592	444	512	535	470
Completions	322	222	325	282	310	372	350	332	372	301	323	371	257	292	296	274
% Completed	59.1	53.4	60.3	54.9	61.3	62.4	55.6	61.5	64.1	57.6	59.4	62.7	57.9	57.0	55.3	58.3
Total Yards	3924	2682	3486	3446	4067	4208	3947	3402	4626	3244	4309	4328	2890	3369	2994	3174
Had Intercepted	17	15	17	22	21	22	18	20	13	18	9	8	16	22	18	10
Times Sacked	35	47	32	25	37	63	24	43	23	25	28	49	35	49	33	19
Yards Lost	262	311	222	165	231	388	152	279	123	186	190	366	202	315	196	147
Net Yards	3662	2371	3264	3281	3836	3820	3795	3123	4503	3058	4119	3962	2688	3054	2798	3027
Avg/Game	228.9	148.2	204.0	205.1	239.8	238.8	237.2	195.2	281.4	191.1	257.4	247.6	168.0	190.9	174.9	189.2
Net Yards/Play	6.31	5.12	5.72	6.09	7.06	5.80	5.80	5.36	7.47	5.58	7.20	6.18	5.61	5.44	4.93	6.19
Total Yards	5000	5310	4923	5199	5772	4949	5458	4943	6264	5214	6103	5767	4860	4977	4321	5243
Avg/Game	312.5	331.9	307.7	324.9	360.8	309.3	341.1	308.9	391.5	325.9	381.4	360.4	303.8	311.1	270.1	327.7
Total Plays	999	1000	994	1042	1015	963	1085	1025	1075	1003	988	1065	918	1045	972	979
Yards/Play	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.7	5.1	5.0	4.8	5.8	5.2	6.2	5.4	5.3	4.8	4.4	5.4
Avg. Time of Poss.	29:59	29:48	30:12	30:34	31:02	27:41	30:45	31:37	31:53	29:35	28:38	31:07	28:37	29:48	28:06	29:59
3rd Down Eff.	39.2	35.9	31.1	36.8	48.8	32.6	39.2	33.0	44.9	37.9	42.1	37.4	34.4	37.9	36.9	37.4
Punt Returns	25	37	49	50	40	35	53	38	51	33	36	30	28	49	54	39
Yds./Return	10.0	7.8	4.6	12.1	8.4	11.3	7.8	9.8	7.3	8.7	9.4	7.8	8.5	8.7	6.5	8.8
Kickoff Returns	73	68	62	59	64	74	70	66	60	70	58	65	79	69	61	73
Avg/Return	31	18	21	26	21	26	25	31	23	23	26	20	24	21	27	20
Fumbles	34	26	23	35	26	12	22	20	23	29	17	27	33	19	32	20
Lost	13	5	10	14	9	17	15	12	10	10	15	10	16	12	14	7
Penalties	117	96	103	112	100	116	90	123	79	101	112	116	93	94	87	106
Yds. Penalized	937	877	744	923	939	939	689	903	597	881	983	960	818	700	732	951
Total Points	314	292	270	427	425	305	301	282	413	355	398	367	298	335	211	307
Touchdowns	33	32	28	47	52	31	32	32	49	41	49	39	30	37	23	34
TDs/Rushing	12	9	7	14	21	9	9	12	19	14	13	13	12	8	6	13
TDs/Passing	17	21	19	24	26	21	18	13	27	24	31	24	16	26	14	19
TDs/Other	4	2	2	9	5	1	5	7	3	3	5	2	2	3	3	2
Extra Points	32	31	28	47	49	30	31	27	46	38	48	35	29	36	22	31
2 Pt. Conversions	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	2
Safeties	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Field Goals	28	23	24	32	20	29	26	21	23	23	18	32	29	25	17	22

DEFENSE

	ARIZ	ATL	CAR	CHI	DALL	DET	GB	MINN	NO	NYG	PHIL	STL	SF	SEA	TB	WASH
First Downs	331	313	267	258	294	319	291	272	262	314	314	313	326	277	300	301
Rushing	114	97	96	77	88	111	95	53	96	106	126	121	107	102	108	104
Passing	186	183	149	159	179	183	169	192	148	189	154	164	189	160	174	169
Penalty	31	33	22	22	27	25	27	27	18	19	34	28	30	15	18	28
Rushes	458	442	449	402	429	492	441	348	418	458	489	477	473	441	497	492
Net Yards	1897	1657	1737	1590	1659	2010	1825	985	2063	1830	2182	2327	1936	2029	1917	2197
Avg. Gain	4.1	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.1	2.8	4.9	4.0	4.5	4.9	4.1	4.6	3.9	4.5
Avg. Yds./Game	118.6	103.6	108.6	99.4	103.7	125.6	114.1	61.6	128.9	114.4	136.4	145.4	121.0	126.8	119.8	137.3
Pass Attempts	522	515	500	581	511	511	515	599	474	567	525	451	518	504	493	486
Completions	321	321	291	328	301	339	286	355	267	333	309	266	331	299	301	289
% Completed	61.5	62.3	58.2	56.5	58.9	66.3	55.5	59.3	56.3	58.7	58.9	59.0	63.9	59.3	61.1	59.5
Total Yards	5591	5325	4737	4706	5165	5530	5134	4803	4917	5479	5249	5362	5507	5285	5271	5688
Intercepted By	16	12	14	24	18	12	23	21	11	17	19	17	14	12	11	6
Times Sacked	38	37	41	40	34	30	46	30	38	32	40	34	34	41	25	19
Yards Lost	238	235	265	272	223	201	337	197	268	181	300	214	246	282	166	95
Net Yards	3694	3668	3000	3116	3506	3520	3309	3818	2854	3649	3067	3035	3571	3256	3354	3491
Avg/Game	230.9	229.3	187.5	194.8	219.1	220.0	206.8	238.6	178.4	228.1	191.7	189.7	223.2	203.5	209.6	218.2
Net Yards/Play	6.60	6.64	5.55	5.02	6.43	6.51	5.90	6.07	5.57	6.09	5.43	6.26	6.47	5.97	6.47	6.91
Total Yards	5591	5325	4737	4706	5165	5530	5134	4803	4917	5479	5249	5362	5507	5285	5271	5688
Avg/Game	349.4	332.8	296.1	294.1	322.8	345.6	320.9	300.2	307.3	342.4	328.1	335.1	344.2	330.3	329.4	355.5
Total Plays	1018	994	990	1023	974	1033	1002	977	930	1057	1054	962	1025	986	1015	997
Yards/Play	5.5	5.4	4.8	4.6	5.3	5.4	5.1	4.9	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.7
Avg. Time of Poss.	30:01	30:12	29:48	29:26	28:58	32:19	29:15	28:23	28:07	30:25	31:22	28:53	31:23	30:12	31:54	30:01
3rd Down Eff.	41.3	42.0	31.5	31.0	43.9	43.5	32.6	34.4	34.7	42.9	37.4	45.4	44.4	36.5	37.8	43.7
Punt Returns	44	25	61	38	31	38	55	50	40	33	41	27	35	39	50	45
Yds./Return	12.8	11.2	6.4	9.7	10.8	7.0	9.1	9.7	7.0	5.8	9.3	9.1	13.2	8.8	9.7	7.1
Kickoff Returns	58	53	59	83	80	63	60	59	72	65	71	69	65	61	46	67
Avg/Return	25.5	20.6	22.1	20.8	19.6	22.9	22.5	23.2	22.2	22.4	23.2	24.7	21.1	24.6	18.4	20.8
Fumbles	29	25	22	32	26	29	29	25	22	23	25	24	23	34	25	15
Lost	17	14	8	20	13	18	10	15	8	11	10	15	13	14	9	6
Penalties	95	99	89	132	93	102	97	112	89	97	96	92	87	118	83	94
Yds. Penalized	815	799	735	1084	895	869	710	899	674	771	807	835	703	950	658	856
Total Points	389	328	305	255	350	398	366	327	322	362	328	381	412	341	353	376
Touchdowns	42	37	33	29	40	44	41	32	40	42	36	46	46	39	41	41
TDs/Rushing	16	14	10	7	12	18	12	9	10	19	12	21	18	12	11	9
TDs/Passing	21	20	22	18	25	22	25	15	26	21	17	21	25	23	26	30
TDs/Other	5	3	1	4	3	4	4	8	4	2	7	4	3	4	4	2
Extra Points	42	37	31	27	38	40	38	31	40	40	34	46	46	36	41	36
2 Pt. Conversions	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
Safeties	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Field Goals	31	23	24	18	22	30	26	34	14	22	26	19	30	23	22	30

2006 AFC Team Statistics

OFFENSE

	BAL	BUF	CIN	CLE	DEN	HOU	IND	JAC	KC	MIA	NE	NYJ	OAK	PIT	SD	TEN
First Downs	282	234	313	250	285	282	376	293	310	281	330	289	243	327	321	261
Rushing	86	82	88	72	106	106	112	127	105	82	121	99	73	100	137	105
Passing	179	132	200	153	151	156	241	147	184	180	181	161	144	201	169	133
Penalty	17	20	25	25	28	20	23	19	21	19	28	29	26	26	15	23
Rushes	476	420	435	372	488	431	439	513	513	402	499	491	394	469	522	469
Net Yards	1637	1552	1629	1335	2152	1687	1762	2541	2143	1673	1969	1738	1519	1992	2578	2214
Avg. Gain	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.6	4.4	3.9	4.0	5.0	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.9	4.2	4.9	4.7
Avg./Game	102.3	97.0	101.8	83.4	134.5	105.4	110.1	158.8	133.9	104.6	123.1	108.6	94.9	124.5	161.1	138.4
Pass Attempts	524	431	523	512	454	481	557	446	450	591	527	488	483	523	466	447
Completions	328	268	327	318	256	329	362	266	272	342	326	313	263	312	287	226
% Completed	62.6	62.2	62.5	62.1	56.4	68.4	65.0	59.6	60.4	57.9	61.9	64.1	54.5	59.7	61.6	50.6
Total Yards	3535	3051	4066	3247	2995	3032	4397	3060	3243	3577	3590	3352	2850	4026	3412	2748
Had Intercepted	14	14	13	25	18	13	9	14	12	19	12	16	24	23	9	19
Times Sacked	17	47	36	54	31	43	15	30	41	41	29	34	72	49	28	29
Yards Lost	100	332	233	349	196	254	89	178	243	290	190	199	430	293	150	152
Net Yards	3435	2719	3833	2898	2799	2778	4308	2882	3000	3287	3400	3153	2420	3733	3262	2596
Avg./Game	214.7	169.9	239.6	181.1	174.9	173.6	269.3	180.1	187.5	205.4	212.5	197.1	151.3	233.3	203.9	162.3
Net Yards/Play	6.35	5.69	6.86	5.12	5.77	5.30	7.53	6.05	6.11	5.20	6.12	6.04	4.36	6.53	6.60	5.45
Total Yards	5072	4271	5462	4233	4951	4465	6070	5423	5143	4960	5369	4891	3939	5725	5840	4810
Avg/Game	317.0	266.9	341.4	264.6	309.4	279.1	379.4	338.9	321.4	310.0	335.6	305.7	246.2	357.8	365.0	300.6
Total Plays	1017	898	994	938	973	955	1011	989	1004	1034	1055	1013	949	1041	1016	945
Yards/Play	5.0	4.8	5.5	4.5	5.1	4.7	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.2	5.5	5.7	5.1
Avg. Time of Poss.	32:49	28:04	28:34	29:21	29:50	29:14	29:32	32:11	30:06	30:01	31:35	31:03	28:13	31:13	31:39	27:17
3rd Down Eff.	41.2	31.7	35.8	33.5	37.0	38.9	56.1	39.2	40.6	37.6	42.5	43.8	36.3	42.9	43.2	32.7
Punt Returns	45	39	36	36	32	23	23	45	33	41	36	29	35	34	45	37
Yds./Return	7.8	10.8	6.6	10.3	9.2	10.5	9.0	8.0	8.0	9.2	11.7	8.4	6.2	8.4	8.5	12.6
Kickoff Returns	45	63	59	71	54	71	58	49	64	52	58	60	73	55	55	79
Avg/Return	23.2	23.9	20.5	23.0	22.0	22.7	23.6	23.2	21.9	21.2	26.8	24.1	24.8	22.1	24.5	23.2
Fumbles	21	28	25	23	29	28	13	16	25	19	27	21	32	27	19	29
Lost	9	15	11	17	12	12	10	9	14	6	15	9	22	14	6	7
Penalties	109	87	92	74	67	90	86	97	76	90	98	70	111	69	90	94
Yds. Penalized	878	629	717	687	478	761	718	806	577	789	940	560	847	611	791	803
Total Points	353	300	373	238	319	267	427	371	331	260	385	316	168	353	492	324
Touchdowns	38	33	43	25	34	30	50	42	37	26	46	35	16	42	59	36
TDs/Rushing	11	9	14	7	12	13	17	23	17	7	20	15	5	16	32	15
TDs/Passing	21	19	28	15	20	14	31	17	18	16	25	17	7	23	24	13
TDs/Other	6	5	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	1	3	4	3	3	8
Extra Points	37	33	40	25	34	26	47	41	35	22	43	34	16	41	58	32
2 Pt. Conversions	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	3
Safeties	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Field Goals	28	23	25	21	27	19	26	26	24	26	20	24	18	20	26	22

DEFENSE

	BAL	BUF	CIN	CLE	DEN	HOU	IND	JAC	KC	MIA	NE	NYJ	OAK	PIT	SD	TEN
First Downs	236	298	337	303	291	312	325	259	298	267	264	312	267	269	285	329
Rushing	59	117	109	107	97	115	150	94	109	72	67	111	107	72	87	121
Passing	151	168	206	178	183	174	150	143	171	166	164	181	137	176	178	181
Penalty	26	13	22	18	11	23	25	22	18	29	33	20	23	21	20	27
Rushes	367	476	448	514	447	446	519	420	461	461	388	453	542	408	386	506
Net Yards	1214	2254	1863	2275	1813	1956	2768	1460	1928	1618	1507	2084	2144	1412	1613	2313
Avg. Gain	3.3	4.7	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.4	5.3	3.5	4.2	3.5	3.9	4.6	4.0	3.5	4.2	4.6
Avg/Game	75.9	140.9	116.4	142.2	113.3	122.3	173.0	91.3	120.5	101.1	94.2	130.3	134.0	88.3	100.8	144.6
Pass Attempts	509	513	555	499	538	505	415	523	506	497	518	532	410	529	538	530
Completions	279	324	349	283	327	328	266	294	314	279	294	316	245	319	307	335
% Completed	54.8	63.2	62.9	56.7	60.8	65.0	64.1	56.2	62.1	56.1	56.8	59.4	59.8	60.3	57.1	63.2
Total Yards	3429	3284	4029	3379	3612	3635	2705	3278	3524	3275	3484	3452	2631	3619	3563	3750
Intercepted By	28	13	19	18	17	11	15	20	15	8	22	16	18	20	16	17
Times Sacked	60	40	35	28	35	28	25	35	32	47	44	35	34	39	61	26
Yards Lost	418	265	211	137	202	191	157	200	190	268	281	230	218	226	351	148
Net Yards	3011	3019	3818	3242	3410	3444	2548	3078	3334	3007	3203	3222	2413	3393	3212	3602
Avg./Game	188.2	188.7	238.6	202.6	213.1	215.3	159.3	192.4	208.4	187.9	200.2	201.4	150.8	212.1	200.8	225.1
Net Yards/Play	5.29	5.46	6.47	6.15	5.95	6.46	5.79	5.52	6.20	5.53	5.70	5.68	5.43	5.97	5.36	6.48
Total Yards	4225	5273	5681	5517	5223	5400	5316	4538	5262	4625	4710	5306	4557	4805	4825	5915
Avg/Game	264.1	329.6	355.1	344.8	326.4	337.5	332.3	283.6	328.9	289.1	294.4	331.6	284.8	300.3	301.6	369.7
Total Plays	936	1029	1038	1041	1020	979	959	978	999	1005	950	1020	986	976	985	1062
Yards/Play	4.5	5.1	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.5	5.5	4.6	5.3	4.6	5.0	5.2	4.6	4.9	4.9	5.6
Avg. Time of Poss.	27:12	31:56	31:26	30:39	30:10	30:46	30:28	27:49	29:54	29:59	28:25	28:57	31:47	28:47	28:21	32:43
3rd Down Eff.	28.8	36.6	41.7	43.9	36.7	44.4	47.1	36.6	39.2	38.0	35.9	36.5	35.7	39.3	36.6	40.7
Punt Returns	44	36	42	43	39	36	25	29	32	49	29	28	34	38	27	33
Yds./Return	9.2	7.4	5.6	7.3	6.9	7.6	13.1	11.8	7.9	7.5	11.1	7.3	12.9	5.8	8.0	8.4
Kickoff Returns	75	60	70	48	55	52	78	60	71	40	68	69	42	70	90	58
Avg/Return	21.8	21.3	21.0	21.9	26.9	23.4	26.0	21.0	23.2	24.5	22.8	21.2	28.6	22.4	21.8	21.8
Fumbles	24	28	24	13	28	16	28	12	29	35	24	17	16	16	28	19
Lost	12	11	12	9	13	11	11	4	15	19	13	9	5	9	12	11
Penalties	79	90	97	84	97	96	86	80	85	91	102	105	85	104	87	102
Yds. Penalized	580	709	836	678	785	792	667	684	709	720	918	843	665	862	751	906
Total Points	201	311	331	356	305	366	360	274	315	283	237	295	332	315	303	400
Touchdowns	21	35	40	40	29	42	41	32	34	31	24	34	34	36	33	46
TDs/Rushing	5	14	15	14	13	16	20	14	14	7	11	14	15	9	13	20
TDs/Passing	16	18	24	20	13	22	16	12	18	22	10	19	17	21	19	24
TDs/Other	0	3	1	6	3	4	5	6	2	2	3	1	2	6	1	2
Extra Point Kicks	20	33	37	36	27	39	40	31	33	31	23	29	33	36	32	41
2 Pt. Conversions	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	1
Safeties	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Field Goals	17	22	18	26	34	25	24	17	26	22	22	18	31	21	23	27

A LOOK BACK

75 YEARS AGO (1932)

- The NFL awarded a franchise to George Preston Marshall, Vincent Bendix, Jay O'Brien and M. Dorland Doyle. The franchise was set in Boston and was called the Braves. The team lost money in its first year and Bendix, O'Brien and Doyle sold out at the end of the first year leaving George Preston Marshall as the sole owner. He would stay in the league as an owner for 37 years.

- The Chicago Bears and Portsmouth (Ohio) Spartans finished the season tied for the championship and played one final regular season game to decide the title. The game was played indoors before 12,000 fans at Chicago Stadium because of bitter cold and a heavy snow. Because of the size of the stadium, the field was shortened to 80 yards. The field was covered with 400 tons of dirt laid six inches deep. The Bears scored on a touchdown pass from Bronko Nagurski to Red Grange and then added a safety for a 9-0 victory. (The Portsmouth Spartans later became the Detroit Lions.)

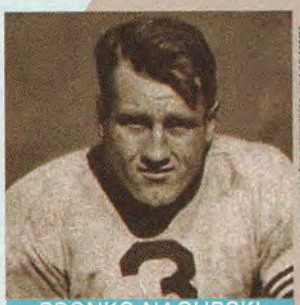


PHOTO BY NEW YORK TIMES CO./GETTY IMAGES

BRONKO NAGURSKI

PHOTO BY NEW YORK TIMES CO./GETTY IMAGES

RED GRANGE

50 YEARS AGO (1957)

- The Single-Wing formation vanished from the NFL forever as the Pittsburgh Steelers became the last team to abandon it for the T-formation.

- Ted Collins, owner of the New York Yankees franchise, sold it back to the league and a new franchise was awarded to a group in Dallas. The new team was called the Texans and went 1-11 and the owners turned the team back over to the league. For the rest of the season the team played on the road and at the end of the year the franchise was folded. It was the last time an NFL team failed.

- The Detroit Lions won the NFL championship by defeating the Cleveland Browns 17-7 in the title game on December 28. It was the Lions first title in 17 years.

35 YEARS AGO (1972)

- The Dallas Cowboys beat the Miami Dolphins 24-3 in Super Bowl VI in New Orleans on January 16. Roger Staubach was the game's MVP. The game was broadcast on CBS and seen by in an estimated 27,450,000 homes, the top-rated one-day telecast ever at that time.

- On December 23, the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Oakland Raiders 13-7, the first Steelers' postseason victory in history. The game is best remembered for the "Immaculate Reception" by Franco Harris for the winning touchdown.

25 YEARS AGO (1982)

- On January 24, Joe Montana led the San Francisco 49ers and Ray Wersching kicked four field goals as the 49ers beat the Cincinnati Bengals 26-21 in Super Bowl XVI at the Pontiac Silverdome. It was the first Super Bowl held in the North.

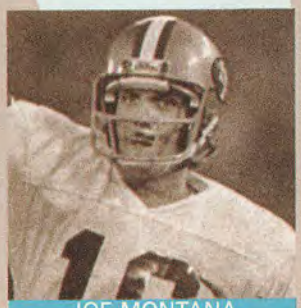


PHOTO BY BARTON SILVERMAN NEW YORK TIMES CO./GETTY IMAGES

JOE MONTANA

- The NFL signed a five-year contract with the three television networks (ABC, CBS, and NBC) to televise all NFL regular-season and postseason games starting with the 1982 season.

- The Oakland Raiders and the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission won a jury trial verdict against the NFL which cleared the way for the Raiders to move to Los Angeles. The Raiders defeated Green Bay 24-3 in their first preseason game in Los Angeles on August 29.

- The 1982 season was reduced from 16 games to nine as the result of a 57-day players' strike. The strike was called by the NFLPA at midnight on Monday, September 20, following the Green Bay at New York Giants game. Play resumed November 21 following ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement by NFL owners, November 17 in New York.

- Despite the strike, the average paid attendance in 1982 was 58,472, the fifth-highest in league history.

10 YEARS AGO (1997)

- On January 26, the Green Bay Packers won their first NFL title in 29 years by defeating the New England Patriots 35-21 in Super Bowl XXXI at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

- On March 11, the rules on cross-ownership were softened, allowing NFL owners to also own teams in other sports in their home market or markets without NFL teams. The vote was 24-5 (one abstention) in favor of approval.

- The 10,000th regular-season game in NFL history was played when the Seattle Seahawks defeated the Tennessee Oilers 16-13 at the Kingdome in Seattle, October 5.

MAKE A PLAY FOR GORDO'S®

Dip into the authentic taste of Gordo's Cheese Dip made with real cheese.

Try all 5 Cheese Dips: Plain, Mild, Hot, Cheese'n Salsa and the newest favorite with a smokey Chipotle kick.

www.gordos.cc

©2007 Charley & Sons, Inc.

©2007 General Motors Corp. All rights reserved. Sierra, Denali, GMC and GMC logo are registered trademarks of the General Motors Corporation.
©2007 NFL Properties LLC. All NFL-related trademarks are trademarks of the National Football League.

THE OFFICIAL VEHICLE OF THE

NFL